Daily Report

Latin America

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Friday
18 January 1991

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FBIS-LAT-91-013 *18 January 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Central American, Mexican Presidents' Declaration

PA1801041391 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 12 Jan 91 p 3

["Declaration of Tuxtla Gutierrez" issued by the Central American and Mexican presidents in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, Mexico, on 11 January]

[Text] The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico, meeting in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, on 10 and 11 January 1991, bearing in mind the historical ties of brotherhood and the similar aspirations of its peoples and governments:

Considering the progress that the Central American countries have made on the road toward indivisible peace in the region, which is now allowing for the strengthening of joint actions in a large variety of fields;

Recognizing that to consolidate peace and strengthen democratic institutions it is necessary to reactivate and strengthen the economy with social justice;

Concerned about the persistence of some negative phenomena, such as the use of violence to resolve conflicts, internal poverty, foreign debt, trade obstacles, massive emigration, environmental pollution, and drug trafficking;

Convinced of the possibilities of strengthening joint cooperation between Central America and Mexico because of geopolitical factors and the strong ties of regional identity, among other reasons;

Bearing in mind the rich and always constructive experience in their bilateral relations through the various stages of their common history;

Have agreed upon the following declaration:

1. The Central American presidents stressed the historic nature of this meeting, which for the first time resulted in a summit. It constitutes an important step in the institutionalization of these meetings.

2. The Central American presidents reiterated their decision, which was stated at the Puntarenas Summit, to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development. In this regard, the Mexican president emphasized the importance of the declaration as the product of a process of Central American reflection that is allowing its people to overcome many years of struggling and internal conflicts as well as political and social instability.

3. The Central American and Mexican presidents reiterated their concern over the persistence of armed conflicts in the region. In review of the evolution of the situation in El Salvador and the current status of the dialogue process between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), they reiterated their decisive support for the efforts conducted by the UN secretary general in favor of peace in El Salvador as well as by the group of countries that are friends of the secretary general, comprising the Governments of Colombia, Spain, Venezuela, and Mexico.

They expressed their desire to achieve complete national reconciliation in El Salvador without delay and in accordance with the principle of respect for human rights—included in agreements already in effect—and respect for the state of law. They agreed that the renewed dialogue on the topics included on the agenda—which was drafted under the auspices of the UN secretary general—constitutes the best way to attain peace and eradicate violence as an alternative solution to the internal conflict in the country.

The presidents also expressed satisfaction with the willingness of the Guatemalan Government to keep the channels of communication with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) open in order to achieve a cease-fire and so that that group can participate in the country's political life.

4. The Mexican president expressed satisfaction with the progress made through the signing of a Central American agreement on matters of security, verification, supervision, limitation of weapons, and military personnel. The presidents agreed that the climate of detente that has taken place in the world is appropriate for the promotion of actions aimed at establishing a reasonable balance of forces. They reaffirmed their commitment to join forces with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to reach an agreement that entails the limitation of conventional offensive weapons in the region—and that excludes the introduction of nonconventional weapons—as part of the effort to create peace in Latin America.

5. Upon reviewing the cooperation of the international community in the region, the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico reiterated the need for greater international support for Central America to help the Isthmian countries on the path of development. This support is seen as an indispensable condition to achieve a climate of stability and peace in Central America.

Within this framework, the presidents pledged they would make additional efforts to preserve and strengthen the so-called San Jose dialogue in which the EEC, Central America, and the Group of Three are engaged. They expressed hope that the next meeting of this group (San Jose VII), to be held in Managua, Nicaragua on 11 and 19 March 1991, will permit the strengthening of cooperation between the two regions.

The presidents highlighted the importance of the fact that this and other cooperation efforts in the region complement and augment each other.

Specifically, they urged the international community, and particularly the international financial organizations, to give their all-out support to the execution of the

Emergency Plan aimed at resolving the problems which Nicaragua faces in its economic and social reconstruction.

6. The presidents agreed that President Bush's initiative "Enterprise for the Americas" represents a new approach to hemispheric relations. The outright acknowledgement of the link between trade, foreign debt, and investment opens up the possibility of a wide range of cooperation for economic regional development, based on objective principles shared by all the nations in the hemisphere. The presidents also stressed the importance of counting on more specific elements to contribute toward defining what was agreed upon and the scope of the initiative.

7. The Mexican president noted the Central American nations' position with regard to the initiative "Association for Democracy and Development," in which Central America should play a leading role in determining the region's priorities.

8. The Mexican president stated his satisfaction with the Central American presidents' decision to appoint a representative to participate in the Rio Group work sessions. This representative will be chosen through a rotation mechanism based on the system used to determine the regional summit sites. President Salinas stressed that the representative's presence will help to increase even more the ties of friendship between all the Latin American nations.

9. They stated their satisfaction with the new climate of understanding in the region, which has permitted the adoption of important measures aimed at improving the human rights situation, in accord with international agreements on the subject. Likewise, they vowed to continue their efforts to made substantial improvements in the administrative and judicial mechanisms aimed at fully validating this new climate of understanding.

10. The problem of the Central American refugees and repatriated and displaced persons was taken into consideration. This issue has been a priority in the concerted efforts between the Central American and Mexican Governments, through the process developed in the International Conference for Central American Refugees (Cirefca). The presidents reiterated their support of the follow-up mechanisms reflected in Cirefca's action plan at the national, regional, and international level. Likewise, they again urged the international community to make good the contributions announced in the first international meeting of its court of implementation [corte de seguimiento]. This meeting was held at the UN offices in New York on 27 and 28 June 1990.

10. [number as published] The presidents noted that the immigration flow in the region is due, among other things, to a series of socioeconomic phenomena. They reiterated their political willingness to promote consultations to resolve the problems that exist in the different countries with regard to the human dignity of the immigrants, and considering their right to return voluntarily.

11. They expressed their shared concern with the increasing deterioration of the environment and ecological balance, and reiterated their interest in adopting decisive measures, both at world and regional level, to solve this serious problem, on the premise of unreserved respect for the sovereignty of nations. They stressed the importance of international cooperation to protect and renew the environment, especially by transferring adequate environmental technologies to developing countries under fairer economic terms.

The Mexican president took special note of the actions that are being carried out in Central American countries to preserve the environment, particularly the "International Cooperation Toward a New Ecological Order" proclamation presented by the Costa Rican president on 14 December 1990.

Also, the Central American presidents invited Mexico to participate in the Central American Commission of Environment and Development. The Mexican president accepted the invitation and promised to respond as soon as possible to define the methods of cooperation.

12. The presidents underscored the need to redouble the international community's efforts to confront in a systematic, comprehensive, and efficient way the abuse of drugs, including the various steps that make up this phenomena, especially consumption.

In this agreement it was decided to hold consultations to strengthen the legal framework and begin concerted efforts among all the countries of the area, including the signing of bilateral accords and the exchange of drug information. Mexico agreed to take part, in response to an invitation by the Central American presidents, in the Permanent Central American Commission to Eradicate the Production, Consumption, Traffic, and Misuse of Drugs [Comision Centroamericana Permanente Para la Erradicacion de la Produccion, Consumo, Trafico y Uso Indebido de Estupefacientes y Sustancias Sicotropicas]. Likewise, the area presidents agreed to invite Colombia to take part and assist the commission. Through its foreign minister, Colombia agreed to take part in this work.

The presidents of the Central American countries and Mexico called on the international community to back the UN Agreement Against Illegal Drug Trafficking dated 20 December 1989 as the proper framework for international cooperation on this subject.

13. The Mexican president informed his Costa Rican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran, and Nicaraguan colleagues about the government's recent creation of the Mexican commission for cooperation with Central America, broadly outlining the legal framework it is based on and the social situation that warrants its creation as an organization to direct Mexican solidarity with the region.

The Central American presidents expressed their recognition of the Mexican Government's decision to assist in the area's economic development.

14. The Mexican president said that placing the "Solidarity" satellite system in orbit in 1994 will allow communication among Central American countries and between Central American countries and Mexico and will be important for better communications between nations by making possible the exchange of television programs and the transmission of written and voice information, which will serve to promote the area's economic, educational, and cultural development.

15. The presidents stressed the importance of ensuring the success of the GATT meeting in Uruguay, in view of the importance this multilateral trade negotiation has for economic and social development. To this end, the presidents called on the signatories to redouble efforts during the next few weeks to attain agreements with all the work groups.

16. The presidents agreed that the current world situation makes it more necessary than ever to further Latin American integration as a broad process that will increase the links of cooperation between area countries and serve as an effective instrument for the region's harmonious development.

The presidents agreed that it is necessary to review once again the paths taken so far by area integration, thus defining a new strategy capable of lending real support to economic development and boosting an intensive inter-Latin American cooperation process. This process must translate into a true plan to advance an integration that will serve to reflect our own realities and the dynamics of international economic relations.

The Mexican president gave his full support to the integration process of the Central American countries, which received a significant boost following the presidential summits at Antigua Guatemala and Puntarenas.

17. In reviewing the current state of trade among Central American nations, the presidents reaffirmed their commitment to contribute to the creation of a just and equitable international trade system governed by multilaterally agreed upon norms and principles. They underscored the importance of opening markets as a means of promoting competition and encouraging efficiency, modernization, and competitiveness of the domestic production structure. This is to ensure larger supplies and a higher quality of goods and services to increase the peoples' well-being.

The presidents of Central America and Mexico agreed on the need to implement concrete actions to substantially increase trade exchanges and adjust them to their economies' potentials. They also recognized that the broad possibilities afforded by the promotion of trade between Mexico and the countries of the isthmus could not only increase trade but also balance the trade flow.

The presidents praised the signing of the bases for an Economic Complementation Agreement that will gradually lead to the creation of a free trade zone that should be in place at the latest by 31 December 1996. They recognized that the said agreement is the dawn of a new phase in the region's economic relations, because it promotes an effective multilateral liberalization involving creative and pragmatic joint actions in the areas of trade, finance, and energy.

18. The foreign ministers of Colombia and Venezuela expressed their pleasure about the Central American and Mexican presidents' decision to advance toward the creation of a free trade zone no later than 31 December 1996. They also announced their respective governments' decisions to sponsor a substantial opening in their markets to allow the importing of Central American products.

19. The presidents agreed that the foreign debt has affected their countries' growth and that it can alter the financial balance needed for the Latin American countries' development. In the search for solutions to these problems, which must be adjusted to each country's development requirements and particular needs, the presidents emphasized the importance of the processes for reducing the debt's principal and interest. This will allow Latin American countries to achieve adequate economic growth rates. The presidents also emphasized the need to encourage the flow of capital from countries which have a surplus to countries which have a deficit.

Taking this into consideration and given the Mexican Government's decision to support Central America's development, the Mexican president stated his willingness to continue with the renegotiation of the Central American countries' debt with Mexico. He stated that he is interested in promptly starting bilateral negotiations—given the situation prevailing in each country—so that countries with overdue debt payments may normalize their financial relations with Mexico.

The Central American presidents stated their governments' recognition of Mexico's positive attitude toward the renegotiation of their debts and of the importance that this has within the framework of an overall strategy for equitable negotiations between debtor and creditor countries. They also pledged to renew efforts at achieving a mutually satisfactory solution to the situation.

20. The presidents expressed their satisfaction with the signing, on this date, of a General Cooperation Agreement between Mexico and the five Central American countries, which will allow them to raise the level of cooperation by strengthening and increasing their actions in the political, economic, technical-scientific, and educational-cultural sectors.

21. The Central American presidents reviewed the oil cooperation issue, and they stated their pleasure with the favorable treatment granted by Mexico and Venezuela to their oil bill, within the framework of the San Jose Agreement, which has allowed them to lessen the abrupt

impact of the sudden increase in oil prices caused by the current situation of instability prevailing in the international oil market.

The presidents also stated their satisfaction with the extension, until 31 March 1991, of the emergency mechanism approved by Mexico and Venezuela in October 1990 while reasserting their decision to fully comply with the obligations derived from the San Jose Agreement.

The Mexican president also reasserted his government's decision to continue the actions aimed at guaranteeing a steady supply of fuel to the region under preferential conditions, within the framework of the San Jose Agreement and in coordination with the Venezuelan Agreement.

22. Referring to this, the Central American presidents welcomed with satisfaction the proposal presented by Mexico and Venezuela to grant credits on a medium- and long-term basis, for an amount equivalent to their oil bill for one year, to finance investment projects and programs for structural changes financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. They also asked the organization, through its president, to favorably consider the proposal. It was also agreed that the Central American countries may decide to maintain the current scheme, within the framework of the San Jose Agreement, depending on their particular circumstances.

The Central American presidents expressed their deep recognition to the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela for their initiative, aware of the importance that this program will have in their countries' economies. They also asked the Venezuelan foreign minister to transmit this recognition to President Carlos Andres Perez.

23. The presidents stated they were pleased with the current broad and satisfactory development of educational and cultural cooperation.

In the case of educational cooperation, they promised to support projects to modernize their systems through the improvement of their educational and teaching structures.

Regarding the cultural area, the presidents, convinced of the importance of their common heritage, confirmed their governments' decision to further increase cultural ties among their countries, strengthen regional identity, and promote the heightening of mutual understanding among their peoples.

24. In the area of technical and scientific cooperation, the presidents stressed the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen the relations of cooperation between Mexico and Central America, through actions of coordination and realization of specific projects, such as those that have been developed to date and that have permitted a significant increase in the actions of cooperation in the last two years.

25. The presidents reaffirmed their peaceful spirit and their belief that in an increasingly more interdependent world, it is essential that efforts be made to strengthen the action of the multilateral organizations in their tasks of maintaining peace and promoting development with justice.

26. Recognizing the grave effects that the outbreak of an armed conflict in the Persian Gulf would have for humanity, the presidents issued an appeal for the resumption of efforts through the UN secretary general or any other means, so that, strictly abiding by the Security Council resolutions on the topic, a peaceful solution to the conflict will be found.

27. The Central American and Mexican presidents expressed thanks for the presence of the OAS secretary general, the Colombian and Venezuelan foreign ministers, the Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation, the IDB president, and the UN and EC representatives, who acted as observers in the summit meeting.

28. The Central American presidents expressed their recognition of President Salinas de Gortari's fortunate initiative to convene the meeting and of the hospitality provided by the people and government of Mexico, particularly the State of Chiapas, during their stay.

29. The Central American and Mexican presidents agreed to hold a second meeting at a date and place to be jointly agreed upon.

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, 11 January 1991.
Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of Mexico
Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, president of Costa Rica
Marco Vinicio Cerezo A., president of Guatemala
Rafael Leonardo Callejas R., president of Honduras
Alfredo Cristiani B., president of El Salvador
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua

Cuba

Castro Announces Pan-American Games Will Go On

FL1701235991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0423 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Remarks made by President Fidel Castro during news conference on the Pan-American Games with foreign journalists held at Havana's Habana Libre Hotel on 16 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Announcer] Referring to the holding of the Pan-American Games in Cuba, the commander in chief said:

[Castro] If we are bombed tomorrow, we will have no alternative but to cancel the Pan-American Games. If there is a World War, which I hope there will not be, we will, of course, cancel the games. These would be the only reasons, however, for cancelling the games.

There are several reasons for this decision:

Cuba made an international commitment to hold the Pan-American Games. It is therefore a sacred commitment that must be honored. Cuba is a country that honors its commitments. Countries that honor their commitments make a priority of their international obligations, of their moral and ethical commitments.

As I have just said, Cuban health workers are in danger in Iraq. Because of moral and ethical principles, we authorized and approved the Cuban doctors' decision to remain there despite the danger of war.

Because holding the Pan-American Games is a priority, we have decided to honor our commitment to hold them. In addition, the costs for these games have already been met. Everything that had to be acquired has already been purchased and paid for. We even bought new equipment for Cuban television. In view of holding the Pan-American Games, we needed to acquire much equipment, which at any rate was desperately needed by Cuban television and will continue to be used in the country after the games.

The most important investment we made was in building the Pan-American Games villa, a housing project that will benefit the people of Cuba. Our housing policy calls for the continuation of all housing construction projects until completion. This policy also establishes that no new construction projects will be undertaken, except for some housing projects.

As a rule, all construction projects will continue. They will not be stopped. This is a principle applied to all projects, social and economic. If a hospital is under construction, its construction will not be halted. If a school or a child care center, or a special education school, are under construction, the construction will not be stopped. This same rule applies to all construction, including that for the Pan-American Games.

Even if we have a greater oil shortage, we will continue building the Pan-American Games projects because the fuel needed to finish the Pan-American Games works is an insignificant amount which will not be a heavy burden for us. The materials—cement blocks, prefabricated materials—have already been produced. Moreover, now more than ever, we have a larger labor force. So why cancel the Pan-American Games?

If it was today that we were first deciding on whether or not to hold the Pan-American Games here, it is very likely that we would not make such an international commitment. This commitment was made, however, over four years ago, in November 1986, over four years ago, when none of the current problems existed. Commitments were made and they were met while they could be met. In fact, all our commitments have been met. Everything that had to be done for the Pan-American Games has been done. The only thing that must still be completed is the use of some of the materials that have not yet been used.

Furthermore, we are very happy that the Pan-American Games will be held here. We are very happy that for the first time Cuba will have an excellent bicycle track, Olympic pools, canoe and rowing canals, and all these installations. These constructions are being built by the people. It is the people, mainly the mini-brigades, volunteer workers, who are building these works, and they are very happy and proud of what they are doing.

As for Havana City, it will have access to excellent installations that will be used not merely for one month, but for many years to come.

This is why I said that despite the difficulties that arose after we made our commitment, we welcome the Pan-American Games. We are very happy that they will take place.

[Announcer] Our commander in chief was also asked if the investments made by the Cuban Government in installations for the Pan-American Games are justified considering the short duration of such.

[Castro] These installations will last forever. The Cuban people, Cuban athletes, will use these installations for years to come. Aside from what it has invested in the Pan-American Games, Cuba had already invested millions to develop sports facilities. We have built sports facilities [laughs] throughout the country, and we plan to continue building them in the future, regardless of the Pan-American Games. Unrelated to the Pan-American Games, Cuba has thousands of gym and sports teachers working in our country. Aside from the Pan-American Games, Cuba invests more in sports than the event is costing us. In addition, what we have invested in the Pan-American Games represents less than one percent of our national investments. [laughs] Therefore, it is not a heavy burden. It does not represent a heavy economic burden.

In terms of housing, we build dozens of thousands each year. The 1,453 houses that were built for the Pan-American Games are part of our housing program. Moreover, these constructions have resulted in a benefit for Cuba: They have resulted in a revolution of the city's urban architecture. Thanks to the Pan-American villa, our designers have developed excellent and beautiful buildings with the same construction materials. Therefore, Cuban urban architecture will be identified by two eras: before and after the Pan-American Games.

Of course we wish the games could last more than 16 days. We would have more fun.

[Announcer] Regarding the impact that the U.S. blockade may have had on Cuba and how this boycott has affected the Pan-American Games, the commander in chief said:

[Castro] In general, the boycott has had an impact. It has had an effect on Cuba, but we have gotten used to it. The blockade has developed many virtues in the Cuban people. It has compelled Cubans to make great efforts in many sectors, such as in medicine, science, research, in many sectors.

Therefore, although this blockade has had a negative effect in the economic sector, it also has had its positive side because it has become a test, and a challenge that defied the Cuban people.

As for the Pan-American Games, the U.S. Government's main action was to forbid U.S. television networks to broadcast the Games. This would have meant having access to millions of dollars. The U.S. Government adopted this measure to undermine the Cuban economy. We, however, did not want the American people to be deprived of watching their athletes and the sports matches. This is why we offered to allow U.S. television networks to broadcast the Pan-American Games free of charge. I believe this was the proper thing for Cuba to do, rather than adopt a vengeful attitude and to say: Since they want to block resources, let the American people—who will now get a great deal of information on the war and other terrible deeds—be deprived of watching the Pan-American Games.

At any rate, we are happy because we know that the Olympic Committee has been able to work freely. We know that the Olympic Committee has strived for the success of the Pan-American Games. We must take this into account. We hope that the U.S. authorities will help the Olympic Committee.

Therefore, the only way in which the U.S. Government can damage us is to deprive Cuba from obtaining a few million dollars in income for television rights. This will not stop us from holding the Pan-American Games.

UN Ambassador's Remarks on Gulf War Noted

FL1701212191 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, ambassador to the United Nations, by Pedro Costa from New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Costa] Mr. Ambassador, we are calling you to get your views on the beginning of this fatal war in the Persian Gulf.

[Alarcon] I believe this is the beginning of the worst act of a tragedy that was announced for months. It is the culmination of a adventurous and irresponsible policy the United States has been implementing. It is a war which will have catastrophic consequences not only for the Arab people or Third World countries but for all people. It is a war—as the UN secretary general said yesterday in his remarks—that did not have the support of the people. This was seen here in the United States yesterday. There were tens of thousands peace demonstrators. There is growing opposition in the entire world. This is the culmination of an adventurous and irresponsible policy. The entire world will have to pay the consequences including the Americans.

In the meantime, the reaction they should expect from the entire Arab world, from the Arab and Moslem people, will be of hatred, rejection, and condemnation. They will not sit back and watch the destruction of Baghdad, or all the Iraqi towns, or the unnecessary premeditated death of thousands and thousands of Iraqi men and women including, of course, many civilians. I believe this is a true example of barbarism by those who cynically talk of a new international order. This is nothing new. This is the same behavior shown by the most aggressive colonialists and racists in the worst times in history.

[Costa] Mr. Ambassador, we know that you are at the UN headquarters right now. What is being said at the highest international diplomatic organization about the beginning of the war in the Persian Gulf?

[Alarcon] I would say the diplomats' first reaction was of shock and great surprise, not because it was not expected but because so far there had been talk of the war in theory, as an hypothesis. The diplomats, including the Security Council members, learned about the beginning of the war through the U.S. television. You could hear the sound of bomb or artillery explosions. It was truly impressive to hear through the U.S. television when the attack began. There is great concern. I could tell you that some nonaligned members of the Council are in close contact at this time trying to see what can be done.

Regrettably, little can be done with a Security Council which has acted as an U.S. instrument, which acted irresponsibly as a means to facilitate and cover up this brutal war by ignoring its basic responsibilities, violating its duties in accordance with the UN Charter. The best

evidence of this, the best signal is that the Security Council members, who supposedly authorized the use of force, learned through the television that force was being used. Nobody has counted with them, nobody thinks about counting with them. [as heard] In spite of the great difficulties existing under the present situation, we will continue to make strong efforts to attempt to get the United Nations to do something to put an end to....

[Costa, interrupting] Mr. Ambassador, you talked earlier about demonstrations in American cities. You live in New York City. What have you been able to see regarding the reaction of the American people out in the streets prior to the beginning of war and after the beginning of war?

[Alarcon] It is raining at this time in New York. It has been raining since early in the morning. If we judge by what we were able to witness yesterday, a strong protest by the American people should be expected. There were two large demonstrations in front of the United Nations in New York yesterday. They forced the closure of the city's main avenues, traffic had to be rerouted. This lasted until late in the night. While Bush was thinking out his decision—he must have had trouble sleeping, as some reporters commented—over 1,000 people demonstrated in front of the White House throughout the night.

While the two demonstrations were going on in front of the United Nations in New York, there was a 1,500-person rally at Columbia University, according to the press. At the same time, thousands protested in Los Angeles and in various parts of San Francisco. They had to bring police reinforcements from other parts of California. In Washington State, which is in the extreme western part of the country, in the northwestern part of the country next to the Canadian border, the state legislature was taken over by the people. There have also been large demonstrations in Chicago and New England. In sum, if one adds all those up, it totals tens of thousands of Americans. According to the press, most of them are young people, people who did not experience the horrors of the Vietnam War. Nevertheless, they have enough awareness to oppose this brutal war.

[Costa] We thank Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, for his remarks for Radio Progreso.

Medical Contingent in Iraq 'Working Normally'

FL1701182591 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A PRENSA LATINA dispatch datelined Baghdad has reported that the Cuban medical contingent stationed in Iraq has begun its work in caring for the victims of the American air attack on Baghdad and other places in the country. The Iraqi Ministry of Public Health has assured the Cuban Embassy that all our country's medical brigades are well and working normally in the (Karoma) and [name indistinct] Hospitals. Cuban Ambassador Juan Aldama has stated that morale is high in the group, and added that all necessary measures have been taken for the group's safety.

Letter Sent to Robaina

FL1701152791 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1511 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The 36 young Cuban internationalists who are working in Iraq have sent a letter to Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, to reaffirm their determination to remain at their posts. Minutes after the beginning of the bombing of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, they sent their message and asked Robaina to pass it to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

There are 30 women and six young men currently in Iraq. They are helping the Arab people as health workers. They constitute more than 15 percent of all Cubans performing this duty. In their message to the youth leader, the internationalists state: We will carry out our noble internationalist and humanitarian work with dignity and high honor. Last night, our commander in chief praised the position of the Cuban medical contingent in Iraq.

Two-Day Mexican Economic Meeting Begins 18 Jan

FL1801010891 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Cuban and Mexican financial authorities are holding a two-day meeting at the Palace of Conventions to analyze economic relations between the two countries. The delegations are presided over by Humberto Soto, director general of the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico, and Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba. Officials of the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico, Foreign Secretariat, Finance Secretariat, and Mexican Petroleum, among other Mexican and Cuban organizations, are attending the meeting.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Leaders Criticize Husayn's Invasion of Kuwait

FL1801011091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2232 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan. 17, CANA—Caribbean leaders on Thursday backed a military strike against Iraq, while looking for ways to cushion the impact a prolonged war in the Persian Gulf could have on their economies.

The leaders of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent criticised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn over his invasion of Kuwait and the refusal to withdraw that triggered Wednesday night's blitz.

Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson said an official team would go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss the war's economic effects,

including the threat to performance targets under his country's loan programme with the Fund.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, who said there was a security alert in Trinidad, described Husayn as a case for an international criminal court, while Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford urged a "new world order" to stop the escapades of adverturists.

Prime Ministers James Mitchell of St. Vincent and John Compton of St. Lucia decried unprovoked invasion of small states, and upheld the action to "vindicate the territorial integrity of Kuwait." The prime ministers of Dominica and Grenada were expected to join in supporting the statement.

Opposition parties were also outspoken. Trinidad and Tobago opposition leader Basdeo Panday urged another chance for diplomacy or, failing this, a swift conclusion to the war. Dominica opposition politician Michael Douglas predicted a vigorous war.

Trinidad's Robinson, who has urged establishment of an international court for terrorism and other crimes, is now pushing for a plan with the leaders of Jamaica and Venezuela to bring relief to oil-importing Caribbean countries in case prices rise sharply.

After talks Tuesday with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, Robinson said technical teams of the three countries were due to meet in Caracas Thursday. He said the team could be ready "within 48 hours" to recommend concrete measures for the Caribbean and Venezuela on economic relief. The teams would also discuss security and environmental issues which could arise because of the war.

"If all goes well...there's the option of a loan facility to assist consumer countries, credit facilities, and even assistance in foreign exchange relief. Mr. Manley, President Perez, and I have discussed these options, to assist the countries, particularly our Caribbean Community neighbours," Robinson told the Caribbean News Agency Thursday.

'Support' Action

FL1801010091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2047 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Jan. 17, CANA—Caribbean leaders attending working sessions of an assembly paving the way for a political union have expressed support for military action aimed at getting Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent, his St. Lucian counterpart, John Compton, and the heads of the delegations of Grenada and Dominica met, following the adjournment of the session Wednesday night to discuss the Gulf crisis.

"We...support the action taken by the United States Government and coalition forces," they said in a statement. "As small nations ourselves, we can never support the unprovoked invasion of small states, and will uphold the legitimacy of international action taken to vindicate the territorial integrity of Kuwait."

Mitchell said the prime ministers of Dominica and Grenada have been contacted and have agreed to have the statement as their joint response to the outbreak of war in the Gulf.

Opposition Position Dominates Assembly Debate

FL1701152091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1452 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Jan 17, CANA—The decision of the Standing Conference of Popular Democratic Parties of the Eastern Caribbean (Scope), to stay away from the official opening and most of the working sessions of the regional constituent assembly on Windward Islands unity, dominated discussions at the first working session here Tuesday night.

Scope's two local representatives, St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) leader Vincent Beache and leader of the Movement for National Unity (MNU) Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, addressed the 44-seat assembly on the reasons behind the opposition grouping's decision to stay away. But their presentations were met with heated rebuttals from the chairman of the organising committee for this first sitting of the assembly, St. Vincent Attorney-General Parnell Campbell, George Odlum, the leader of the Progressive Labour Party of St. Lucia and founding Scope member, and St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton. Odlum disagrees with the Scope position.

Gonsalves told the assembly that Scope's position on attendance at the assembly was not a boycott. "Our presence here is a limited one because of the governments' failure to respect and accommodate sufficiently the concerns of Scope, concerns which are designed to strengthen and deepen the process of consultation," the opposition politician said.

Scope had indicated to the governments six areas on which there was disagreement with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) secretariat, when the two sides met on December 19 to draw up a draft bill and terms of reference for the assembly. St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica, and St. Lucia are involved in the political unity initiative.

Gonsalves said the consensus of the meeting was that the heads of government of the four islands would meet with Scope before the January 14 convening of the assembly to resolve those differences. He said instead, the group's chairman was sent a letter on January 10 indicating that the outstanding matters could be discussed with the chairman of the assembly, Professor Telford Georges before it convenes, or direct them to the assembly.

The Scope representative said three of the areas of concern were critical to Scope. One is its request for an independent secretariat to service the assembly, since Scope found the OECS secretariat to be "decidedly not independent of the government and so far the low quality of the work of the unit assigned to perform the union task does not engender confidence that it will do any better in servicing the assembly."

The others are an extension of the number of meetings from the proposed four and a reconstituting of the assembly after its work, to observe the conduct of the two proposed referenda on unity. But the organising chairman Parnell Campbell said the areas of difference did not warrant the stand taken by Scope.

"Even taken together, these are not issues of fundamental importance as to justify the semi-boycott or the boycott of.... Scope," he told the assembly.

"If it was a matter of principle, that principle should have kept away all of them. When you send two, you manifest a political cynicism which insults the intelligence of those who have come," Campbell added.

Although Scope said it would only be represented at the first working session of the assembly by two members, there were a total of six opposition parties present.

Apart from Scope's representatives, there were George Odlum of St. Lucia's Progressive Labour Party, Derrick Knight of the Grenada United Labour Party, Danny Williams of The New National Party of Grenada, and Ben Jones of the National Party.

"It must be realised that not all members of opposition parties of the Windward Islands are willing to go ahead with this political brinksmanship dressed up as lofty principle," Campbell said. This was supported by Odlum who felt that Scope was not consistent with its stand on unity.

"I was gratified to hear Dr. Gonsalves say Scope remains unequivocally in support of political union, and then I reach for a speech I have here from the chairman of Scope to the NYC [expansion unknown] in St. Lucia last week in which he said the opposite, and I quote "it is the opinion of the St. Lucia Labour Party that a political union of the Windward Islands should not be pursued unless and until all of the options currently available are fully examined."

The Scope representatives were urged to impress on their colleagues the need to come to the assembly, and express their grievances there since there may be other delegates with concerns who may do the same.

"This constituent assembly is here to represent all areas of thought in the various islands, and if one element of this assembly should arrogate to itself the right to veto anything that we do, I believe this sort of arrogance has no place in the assembly," St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton said.

The assembly's debate is continuing nightly until Friday.

Barbados

Sandiford Supports UN Resolution on Iraq

FL1701160091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1457 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 17, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erksine Sandiford last night proclaimed support for the United Nations resolution calling on Iraq to withdraw from occupied Kuwait, the NATION newspaper reported Thursday. The paper said that Sandiford, on the campaign trail for January 22 general elections, hoped that even now the Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn would still pull out of Kuwait in the wake of the United States-led military assault Wednesday night.

"Even at this hour I am hoping and all Barbadians should hope that common sense would prevail and that Saddam Husayn would withdraw from the conquered territory," Sandiford told a campaign public meeting of his Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

The Barbadian leader said his government believed "we need a new world order" to "prevent adventurists (like Saddam Husayn) from embarking on those kinds of escapades which can only bring death and destruction to innocent people."

"We in Barbados are very concerned about these developments and I myself have been particularly concerned because what is happening is that a small country, Kuwait, which directed no assault or threat against Iraq, was over-run by Iraq and has lost its independence and its sovereignty," he added.

Sandiford said too that he was concerned "because Barbados is also a small country, and I ask myself if some bigger country, for no apparent reason and without provocation, decided to invade Barbados and through superior force of arms occupied this country, how long would it take us to regain that sovereignty and independence?"

"Kuwait has one of the highest—or had—per capita incomes in the world. It had very close relationships with the major countries of the world and yet for almost six months now, in spite of its money, inspite of its wealth, and inspite of its friendships, it is without its sovereignty and independence," Sandiford commented.

BLP Leader Seeks Talks With Government on Gulf

FL1701163091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 17, CANA—Leader of the minority parliamentary opposition here, Henry Forde, has urged Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford to call a consultation on the Gulf crisis and put a contingency plan in place.

The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) leader told a news conference that he agreed with several Caribbean leaders that "a serious situation could confront our fragile economies" if war in the Persian Gulf lasted for any significant period of time.

Said Forde: "We could anticipate that the price of a barrel of oil could increase to anything like U.S. 50 dollars, and I have heard forecasts from people in the oil industry, to as high as U.S. 100 dollars. This would have a tremendous, crippling effect on our economies and therefore we must have contingency plans."

Crude oil prices gained two U.S. dollars a barrel in Europe on Wednesday, after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn defied a U.N. deadline for his troops to leave Kuwait.

The February futures contract for North Sea Brent Blend climbed to U.S. 30.40 dollars a barrel soon after the start of business on London's International Petroleum Exchange after ending on Tuesday at U.S. 28.19 dollars. However, in the wake of the relative success of the first American-led assault on Baghdad Wednesday night and the failure of the Iraqis to disable any substantial Saudi petroleum installations, the market on Thursday recorded its largest ever decline of U.S. 7.40 dollars a barrel on Brent North Sea Crude, with the price falling to U.S. 21.60 dollars per barrel.

NDP Appeals To Voters for Support in Elections

FL1701143091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1343 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 16 [date as received], CANA—The opposition National Democratic Party (NDP) Tuesday night used the first of two election broadcasts to publicise some of its programmes, and appeal to voters for support at next Tuesday's general elections. Vere Brathwaite, one of the NDP's 28 candidates, explained the two-year-old party's plans for the youth and the elderly and policies on law and order and housing.

The NDP, a splinter group of the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP), was formed in 1989 after former Finance Minister Richie Haynes and three DLP backbenchers crossed the floor. It is led by Haynes.

Brathwaite, an outgoing opposition senator, said an NDP government would establish a youth development programme to provide opportunities for young people to acquire a skill and to receive training in marketing and management. She said young people would also be able to benefit from the proposed creation of a venture capital fund to finance viable business ideas by would-be entreprenuers. Brathwaite said young people at present existed on the fringe of society.

With respect to the elderly, Brathwaite, an attorney-at-law, said an NDP government would initiate programmes that would see the installation of water-borne toilet and bath facilities in the homes of the elderly. She also promised that pensions and other forms of government assistance for the elderly would be reviewed and increased.

Brathwaite said an NDP government would introduce a no down payment mortgage scheme for the purchase of both houses and land. Persons residing in rented government units would be provided with an opportunity to purchase, with rental payments being included in the cost. She said this housing policy was revolutionary and would contribute to expanding the property-owning class here.

On the subject of law and order, she proposed establishment of a Ministry of Home Affairs to coordinate all security agencies including the police, army, coast guard, and customs. Brathwaite said an NDP government would improve salaries of policemen, increase the size of the force, and provide necessary support equipment.

Brathwaite said the NDP aimed to introduce a new political order here. She said voters owed it to posterity to vote for the NDP.

DLP Pledges 'Major' Wealth Redistribution

FL1701140091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1259 GMT 17 Jan 91

[By Reudon Eversley, CANA senior editor]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 17, CANA—The ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Tuesday night unveiled plans for a major redistribution of wealth if it is re-elected to a second term in the January 22 general elections. Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, presenting the party's manifesto at a campaign rally in his urban St. Michael South constituency, said the plan focused on expanding ownership at the mass level.

"Our objective is the attainment of economic justice for the masses of people and this idea of economic justice is an idea whose time has come in Barbados....," he said.

"In a growing economy, there will be winners and losers. It however is socially inexcusable that the losers should always be the broad masses of people in Barbados and we intend to put an end to that."

The goal of "economic enfranchisement" will be pursued through the establishment of a body called the new enterprise administration to assist persons setting up new businesses and through investment opportunities that will be created through divestment of some state enterprises.

The 38-page manifesto said to avoid further concentration of the nation's wealth, 80 percent of shares in state companies being privatised would be offered first to the National Insurance Board, cooperatives, workers' organisations, and some social groups. Each group will be allowed to purchase a 20 percent stake in the company. The remaining 20 percent will be put on the market. Resale of shares will be restricted to the same organisations.

The manifesto named the Arawak Cement Company, a joint venture with Trinidad and Tobago, as the first state enterprise to be privatised. It said Barbados Mills and its subsidiaries, involved in the manufacture of flour and animal feeds, would also be encouraged to put some of their shares on the market. Barbados Mills is a venture in which the Barbados Government and the Canadian company Maple Leaf are the major shareholders.

The manifesto listed among the fundamental goals of a re-elected DLP government: increasing national output, expanding job opportunities, raising living standards, keeping inflation at moderate levels to maintain consumer spending power, increasing investment, raising labour productivity, increasing food output, maintaining a sound balance of payments, providing better health, education, housing, and infrastructure, and keeping the national debt at sustainable levels.

The DLP, rejecting opposition charges of overspending, suggested expenditure would be maintained at current levels. Spending cuts, the manifesto said, would mean layoffs of public workers who could not be absorbed by the private sector, and reduced social services such as health, education, and welfare programmes, which mainly benefit the poor. The manifesto said the DLP was a people-oriented party which always had seen development "in terms of improving the quality of life of all sectors of our community, rather than mere 'things'".

The manifesto indicated a re-elected DLP administration would seek to build on successes achieved in its first term. In the area of fiscal policy, the party said a comprehensive review of the tax system would be undertaken to support the achievement of development objectives such as stimulating production of good and services for export, creating new jobs, and enhancing foreign exchange earnings. Monetary policy would also be geared towards advancing development objectives.

The manifesto suggested emphasis would continue to be placed on manufacturing and tourism as the main foreign exchange earning sectors. The DLP said it would offer export incentives to manufacturers, and would seek through incentives to attract an international fashion house and large offshore furniture manufacturer to set up in Barbados. The manifesto also mentioned plans for the establishment of an international trade centre.

In tourism, the DLP said its aim was to create a Bds [Barbadian dollars] 2 billion dollar (one Bds dollar equals 50 cents U.S.) in the next five years. The industry is currently worth one billion dollars. Increased spending on marketing forms part of the strategy.

The DLP places much emphasis on culture under its social programme. The manifesto promised the establishment of a school of the performing arts, establishment of a national art gallery, establishment of a publishing house, and the development of a national orchestra.

Prime minister and party leader, Erskine Sandiford, in the foreward to the manifesto, said Barbados' major challenge was to see itself in global terms.

"The rapid pace of technological change threatens to eliminate significant areas of economic production in developing countries, and to reduce the demand for the products of our workforce," he said.

"The Democratic Labour Party responds to these challenges by putting before Barbadians a set of economic and social programmes designed to advance us to the position where we can anticipate change rather than react to it."

Sandiford said: "The electorate has a clear choice to make; either to stick with the Democratic Labour Party and its programmes.... which are realistic and sound but also challenging and imaginative, or go after pie-in-the-sky opposition promises that glitter today but fade into disappointment tomorrow."

Haiti

FNCD Mayor-Elect Asks Army Staff To Resign

FL1701212091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Two National Front for Democracy and Change [FNCD] representatives, elected mayor Evans Paul, and Turneb Delpe, senator elected for the West Department, met with the press this morning to share FNCD concerns about recent events in the country. They took the opportunity to ask the population to vote once again for the first class rooster candidates. Of the 37 candidates who ran for deputy on the FNCD ticket, 17 were elected during the first round of votes; of the 15 FNCD senatorial candidates, five were elected. [passage omitted]

K-Plum [Evans Paul] noted that General Andre Jean-Pierre was not present at the police station in Port-au-Prince during the interrogation of the La Toussaint prisoners [1 November 1989, when Paul was arrested]. He said he is offering General Jean-Pierre an opportunity to name the general who was in charge.

FNCD asks the Army General Staff to resign. It is imperative, says K-Plum, that General Abrahams make deep reforms within the military institution before 7 February. As for the aborted coup d'etat, the FNCD is still in the process of investigating it.

[Begin Paul recording] Imagine! Everyone in the country was surprised to see the Haitian Army make great efforts to ensure security during the 16 December elections. It is its duty. We congratulate their efforts because they lack manpower; they lack material.

However, we should not tolerate scoundrels who hide in this corps and represent a real threat to the beginning of democracy in Haiti. We learned that a commando had

tried to free Roger Lafontant Sunday evening during the 13 January curfew. How did it happen? How many people got arrested? None. We learned that a military commando freed his arrested companions by stealing Provisional Electoral Council material on Friday night, 11 January. Who are the guilty ones? It seems that they want innocent ones to pay for the guilty ones.

Facing such an anarchic situation inside the Army, we ask the Army General Staff to resign because it has failed. General Abrahams, who made a great deal of effort, is facing a choice: either he resigns with the General Staff; or he takes every measure to make all the reforms expected by the people to be made within the Army before 7 February. No change can occur with military Macoutes and drug dealers in the Army. [end recording]

It is important to note that members of popular organizations from Labadie [northern region of country] and other provinces were forced to escape because of military repression against them.

Army Denounces 'Thoughtlessness'

FL1701224191 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In a press release sent today, the Army High Command deplored the thoughtlessness with which Evans Paul, known as K-Plum, a few days before the 20 January elections, asked the Army General Staff to resign. The note continued: The Armed Forces of Haiti [FADH] considers such statements confusing to the people, creating a climate of tension among the population. The FADH therefore urges all citizens to show moderation and responsibility in their official or public statements.

In a second note from the Army High Command, regarding the elections on Sunday, it reaffirms that the military institution, organized into a hierarchy, has committed itself to respect for the Constitution and the laws of the Republic. It maintains its determination to ensure a serene and favorable climate for the second round of elections on 20 January, just as it did during the first ballot on 16 December. The FADH asks the population to remain firm in its support of the Army, for the success of the 20 January elections.

ANDP Urges Courage, Integrity in Elections

FL1701215191 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] The attempted coup d'etat perpetrated by defenders of the old system has evoked appropriate reaction and intervention by the people as well as from within the Army. We congratulate both again for their determination and for their hard-won victory. It is now up to the justice system and the government to unflinchingly initiate and expedite the procedures necessary to present the culprits and accomplices to their examining judges.

There are only a few days left before the second ballot of the elections. A large proportion of the country is anxiously observing the climate of violence and intimidation which is becoming almost a common condition in several cities of the country against proponents of democracy, and sometimes against simple, honest citizens. The question must be asked whether such a climate is compatible with freedom to vote, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression—basic human rights expressly guaranteed by the Constitution.

We in the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] have fought and will continue to fight for political pluralism as opposed to a single-party system. We are therefore asking our electors not to be afraid, and to be prepared to fulfill their duty as democrats and citizens, in going to the polls and voting for the candidates they have chosen, on 20 January.

As for the ANDP candidates, we are perfectly aware of the dangers to which they are sometimes exposed because of the intolerance of political extremists. That is why we are advising them to actively campaign only in the districts where their lives or property would not be threatened. We are asking the Provisional Electoral Council to take the necessary measures, especially at the Bureaus for Registration and Vote, to make sure that the voters do so without constraint, and that the election reports be written openly, to guarantee the integrity of the vote and the seriousness of the electoral operation.

We hope that, just as on 16 December, the Haitian Army will again fulfill its duty, without incident or regret. Finally, we are asking all concerned political leaders and groups for further calm, moderation, and good sense. For lack of these, the extremists would have played sorcerer's apprentices. The elections would have been portrayed as neither honest nor credible, says the ANDP press release. Democracy—representative, parliamentary democracy, provided and organized by the March 1987 Constitution, which we were so fervent and determined to call for—would have made a bad start.

This press release, under the title, The ANDP Position Regarding the Second Ballot, was signed by Marc L. Bazin, Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti; Serge Gilles, Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti; and Dejan Bellizaire, National Patriotic Movement of 28 November.

Preparations for 20 Jan Second Ballot Under Way

FL1801022191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Preparations for the second ballot of the elections, scheduled for 20 January, are under way in Port-au-Prince and in the provinces. The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] and Departmental Electoral Bureau officials, the coordinating committees for security in the elections, and the high command of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] met yesterday in order to devise the final

trowel stroke for the tomb of repression, so that democracy can triumph. It was the second meeting between the members of the CEP and the FADH in planning the second ballot of the 20 January elections.

Monday afternoon, at the CEP's request, there was a meeting at the general headquarters of the FADH, between the Haitian Army's high staff, the coordinating committee for security in the elections, and the CEP members. During this meeting, the officials discussed various issues, including points of disagreement between the people and the forces of order; security measures for the second ballot of the elections; and the assistance the Haitian Army plans to provide in the distribution and collection of electoral materials.

The CEP took advantage of this opportunity to remind the people to maintain its vigilance, keep its eyes open, to observe and drive away all those who attempt to disrupt the elections. According to the CEP, openness, telling the people the truth, are the sole elements that can solve the country's problems.

Concerning the 20 January senatorial elections, the people will choose 22 out of 44 senatorial candidates who must run again in the second balloting in eight geographic departments of the country. This does not include the Western Department where three senatorial candidates of the National Front for Change and Democracy were already elected in the first ballot of the elections, 16 December. There are already 41 deputies, elected out of 82, who will sit at the chamber. The voters will elect 41 more, in districts within the nine geographic departments of Haiti. It is only after the 20 January elections that the prime minister of the country will be known.

Chadel Urges Population To Protest Rights Abuse

FL1801023991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Haitian Center for the Defense of Public Freedoms [Chadel] announced Wednesday that it noted 18 cases of human rights violations for the month of December, including one person wounded with bullets. Most of these violations, which have decreased in comparison with previous months, are illegal arrests and mistreatments perpetrated by public agents.

Chadel, headed by Jean-Jacques Honorat, also informs of violations of the electoral law, the most serious of those noted being the 5 December attack which caused seven deaths and wounded 57, after Father Aristide's rally in Petionville.

Chadel also denounces irregularities committed during the 16 December elections, and is calling for witnesses who are hesitant to publicly testify against the atrocities. These witnesses are afraid of being accused by those who are challenging the victory of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They are also afraid of being denounced as antipopulace, who deserve Pere Lebrun [necklacing with burning tires].

Chadel has publicized that in this fear lies serious danger for the future of public freedom and human rights in Haiti. Chadel points out that the Macoute movement resulted from this specific fear, the fear of speaking out.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Calls Husayn International Criminal

FL1801000391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2005 GMT 17 Jan 91

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan. 17, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, expressing sadness Thursday at the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would be a case for an international criminal court.

"He is an aggressor. He has threatened to use biological warfare against military attacks. He has committed very serious acts which could make him a specific case for the international criminal court," Robinson told the Caribbean News Agency. Robinson has been pressing for the establishment of an international criminal court to handle terrorism, international money laundering, and drug-dealing cases.

"Such a court to try Saddam would have been just ideal to carry out justice for the world at large to witness," said Robinson. He said he was saddened at the outbreak of war, but that he fully supports the United Nations Allied Forces' strike against Iraq.

Robinson said authorities here are on the alert for any violent upheavals in sympathy with Husayn, and that he was hopeful for a fruitful outcome of discussions he held with the Venezuelan and Jamaican heads of government on relief for Caribbean oil importers.

"The national security forces are on the alert and we have made certain preparations for any terrorist activities and have increased forces in certain areas," he said. Thursday, civil defence officials said a public antiterrorist awareness programe would be launched. Earlier, the officials and essential services and aviation personnel staged a mock plane crash operation at Piarco International Airport to test their responses to violent attack. Asked if violence by fundamentalists was expected here with the outbreak of war, Robinson said it was unlikely but once a possibility exists, the authorities would take no chances. Extra security is reportedly in place at some Trinidad oil companies.

On the outcome of talks Tuesday with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Jamaican Prime

Minister Michael Manley, Robinson said technical committees of the three countries were due to meet in Caracas Thursday. The committees are working out common strategies for dealing with the effects on oil supply and prices in the region if there is an explosion of world oil prices. Prime Minister Robinson said the committees should be ready to recommend "concrete measures" for the Caribbean and Venezuela in the next "48 hours."

"Our teams will meet, and given the current situation, they would have to double up their efforts to arrive at measures," Robinson said. They will also examine food supply, security, and environmental issues which could arise because of the war. Analysts see the possibility of sharp rises in oil prises during the war.

"If all goes well...there's the option of a loan facility to assist consumer countries, credit facilities, and even assistance in foreign exchange relief. Mr. Manley, President Perez, and I have discussed these options to assist the countries, particularly our Caribbean Community neighbours," Robinson told CANA.

Pemex Says Oil Surplus Already Placed on Market

PA1801024191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2323 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The oil surplus, the reserve margin, has been placed on the international market; therefore, Mexico does not have additional volumes for exporting this year, stated Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) spokesman Francisco Casanova today.

When specifically asked about this, Casanova said that the Mexican Government has received no request from the United States to renew the supply of Mexican oil for its strategic reserves. Supplies of oil to the U.S.'s strategic reserve ended in October 1989.

Nevertheless, he reasserted that the Mexican oil policy has been determined, and that it would be subject to a revision only in a very special case.

During a meeting with reporters, the Pemex spokesman said that Mexico's current oil production is 2.63 million barrels per day, with 1.27 million destined for internal consumption. The rest, meaning 1.36 million per day, are sold abroad.

Likewise, he asserted that oil industry plants are working normally, that the installations are protected by the Navy and National Army, and that their activities will not be hindered in any way.

PRD Condemns Attack on Iraq; Stresses Neutrality

PA1801153591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2141 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), condemned today the multinational forces' intervention against Iraq, "an action which provokes an irreparable damage to mankind."

Ignacio Castillo Mena, coordinator of the PRD's parliamentary faction, spoke on behalf of his party and emphasized that Mexico's position concerning the Persian Gulf war must be "neutrality."

He said: The PRD "supports, in principle, the government's decision not to send military forces," and he warned that all the options for negotiation were not exhausted to avoid the use of force.

"The intervention was based on the power to obtain oil," he stated.

"The PRD is not for or against the United States or Iraq. Nevertheless, the superpowers have also invaded other countries—for example, George Bush's invasion in Panama—and their moral reasons are quite debatable," he indicated.

Also, the chairman of the Commission for Industrial Patrimony and Development, Hermenegildo Anguiano, said that the United States does not have an urgent need to acquire oil.

"That is why the United States has announced the sale of 1.020 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves to allied nations so that they will not be affected by the increase in prices," he explained.

Also, Anguiano denied that the U.S. Secretary of Energy will visit Mexico to negotiate an oil purchase agreement.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Jimenez Morales, leader of the Chamber of Deputies and Chairman of the Permanent Commission of Congress, "flatly" refused to comment on the Persian Gulf military actions.

Costa Rica

Authorities Express Solidarity With Coalition

PA1701222091 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2051 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] San Jose, 17 Jan (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government today reiterated its concern over the outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf and expressed its solidarity with the military action launched against Iraq in the past few hours by the allied forces, headed by the United States.

The position of the San Jose government was outlined in a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry on Thursday.

"The Costa Rican Government supports the difficult and painful decision to initiate military action made by the governments of the United States and the other countries that comprise the multinational force, a decision made after all diplomatic possibilities of achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict had been completely exhausted, and when it had become evident that there was no other way to ensure the prevalence of international law and the continuity of the UN system," the communique states.

The communique also expresses the hope that the conflict will end quickly and that it will later be possible to guarantee "a future of peace and well-being" for all peoples in the Middle East.

Foreign, Economy Ministers View Impact of War

PA1701150991 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1245 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] War in the Persian Gulf will cause an ecological catastrophe, Foreign Minister Niehaus has announced. The war in the Persian Gulf will cause an ecological catastrophe of tremendous consequences for humanity, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said, reiterating Costa Rica's position against the use of force to solve conflicts.

In the case of the Persian Gulf, however, he said it is necessary to ensure respect of international law, which was violated by the Iraqi Government with the invasion of Kuwait. The Costa Rican Government [words indistinct] with its policy and diplomacy.

Niehaus regards Husayn as mentally ill and a psycopath for refusing to withdraw his troops from Kuwait and taking the world to this war unprecedented in history. He believes that the war in the Mideast is complex, but that the demand by the Iraqi Government to negotiate the Palestinian issue must not be accepted, because the Kuwaiti invasion is a different thing which must be resolved within the framework of international law.

Regarding the failure of the efforts carried out, he said it is not the failure of the United Nations, but of all the [word indistinct] of the entire world which should have foreseen that situation a long time ago.

All Costa Ricans must remain calm, said Economy Minister Gonzalo Fajardo on learning of the U.S. air strike against the Persian Gulf. Although the existing situation is quite regrettable, the Costa Ricans must not be concerned regarding the supply of products. The country has the necessary products in reserve for all the population and the development of production will continue normally in the country, he said.

The Costa Ricans can rest assured that the Persian Gulf conflict will not cause any increase in the prices of products, which must not be increased without the proper authorization, the economy minister added. The minister urged against hoarding, saying that it will cause scarcity with the ensuing economic harm. Such an attitude, he said would only harm those sectors that cannot buy a large number of products. It is necessary, he said, to maintain calm and not hoard products.

New Center To Monitor Persian Gulf Developments

PA1701133191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2328 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] San Jose, 15 Jan (NOTIMEX)—It was announced today at the Government House that the Costa Rican Government has created an operations and analysis center to follow monitor events in the Persian Gulf.

The center went into operation immediately and is coordinated by the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS).

The Costa Rican police, the security corps that replaced the army 40 years ago, was created by orders from the National Security Council, which is made up of the Security, Government, and Transportation Ministries and the Judicial Investigation Agency.

As a preventive measure, the authorities ordered special surveillance of three Iraqis, 11 Libyans, 12 Syrians, 12 Jordanians, and one woman of Palestinian origin, but "without bothering them."

The Government Ministry also ordered more immigration controls on people arriving from Middle Eastern countries, or who have ties to groups that support Iraq.

The strategic surveillance program stresses care for foreign embassies, particularly the Israeli Embassy, but according to the authorities, the U.S. Embassy has not requested special protection.

The police reinforcement can also be seen in airports, hospitals, oil pipelines, electric plants and installations, and telephones, which are considered strategic by the Security Council.

Regarding the case of the 40 Palestinians and Libyans settled on the border with Panama, no control measures have been taken, although on 14 January the group denounced, as a direct threat, the presence of U.S. troops on the Panamanian side of the border.

Clocks To Be Set Ahead as Conservation Measure

PA1701231491 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0104 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The government has approved a time change beginning on 19 January to conserve fuel. Clocks will be set ahead one hour beginning on 19 January as part of a series of measures aimed at reducing the consumption of fuel as decided during a government council meeting held this week. The time change is aimed at taking advantage of natural daylight and avoiding the consumption of fuel and energy, which means huge spending for the country's economy. The decision was adopted by the government council after reviewing a study conducted by the Natural Resource Ministry with regard to the energy crisis, the demand for fuel, and the importance of the import of this raw material for the country.

The turn of events in the Persian Gulf crisis could lead the country to adopt new measures to restrict the consumption of fuel even more.

The time change, which will be in effect until mid-May is part of a series of measures that could include the banning of vehicles from the streets on certain days depending on the license plate number, the closing of gasoline stations, and others. Meanwhile, the government will continue with the implementation of the plan to reduce the consumption of fuel, which was introduced late last year, which includes a 10-percent reduction in the use of vehicles in the public sector and turning lights out at certain hours.

The consumption of fuel for this year is estimated to be 8.3 million barrels which, multiplied by $23 per barrel, would amount to a spending of $191 million or 20 billion colons. This figure is considered to be too high for the country's economic situation, therefore it is necessary to undertake a number of measures to reduce the consumption of fuel.

To achieve this, the government has decided to adopt a national campaign to call on all Costa Ricans to reduce the use of fuels and energy in general.

Regardless of the turn of events in the Persian Gulf, which could lead to serious consequences for the country if it worsens, Costa Ricans must conserve fuel, the government council said.

The measure to move clocks one hour ahead is only a way of taking greater advantage of daylight so that the consumption of fuel is decreased. It is expected that with the implementation of the plan to save fuel, the country will save enough fuel to avoid taking more drastic measures.

EL Salvador

Cristiani Expresses Support for Coalition Forces

PA1801050091 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] President Cristiani said today that he fully supports the multinational forces that are trying to free Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation. At a press conference, he also said that El Salvador has fuel supplies for three months. Therefore, there will be no increase in fuel prices.

He said that El Salvador supports the multinational forces that began bombing Iraq yesterday and approves the UN resolution ordering Iraq to abandon Kuwait. Cristiani also said that once the diplomatic efforts were exhausted the war was imminent. He accused Saddam Husayn of being the main culprit for the war.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Regrettably, the peace efforts were ignored by a blind Saddam Husayn, who has unjustifiably rejected them all. We believe that he is the main culprit responsible for the beginning of the war.

The Salvadoran Government's position, as a UN member nation, is, and will always be, to support the UN resolutions and compliance with said resolutions.

We believe that the conflict started yesterday by the allied forces is in compliance with a historic resolution by the United Nations, which, for the first time, authorizes the use of force in case diplomatic efforts fail.

The United Nations has given an example, together with the allied forces, that should serve to make anyone realize that only in cases like this is it justifiable to unleash a conflict that destroys lives and infrastructures.

In our case, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should instead of unleashing more violence seek the peaceful ways which are open through a peace process. That is the solution to our conflict. [end recording]

Cristiani added that El Salvador has strategic oil reserves for three months, and that another month's supply is on its way from Mexico. He also said that the Tuxtla agreement assures the country of its oil supply.

Atrocity Eyewitness Names FMLN Guerrilla

PA1801001691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2248 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—An eyewitness declared today that a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrilla identified as "Porfirio" murdered two U.S. officers on 2 January.

According to a Supreme Court of Justice press release, a peasant whose name was not released, gave testimony before the court that is investigating the alleged murder of the two U.S. military advisers.

The witness gave details on how the helicopter in which the three U.S. officers were riding was downed by the FMLN near Lolotique, about 130 km north of San Salvador.

According to the witness, one of the crew was dead and two were injured when seven guerrillas who were in the area removed various objects from the helicopter, aided by the civilian population.

The witness, who was "hidden" in the bushes, identified one of the guerrillas as "Porfirio," who killed the two survivors when they asked for help.

"I noticed that two people were alive. I saw them make hand signals and shout to Porfirio, but perhaps this annoyed him," the witness said.

"At that moment other peasants arrived with water for the crew, but they found they were dead," the witness told a judge.

A FMLN unit shot down on 2 January a helicopter that overflew at a low altitude an area north of San Miguel Department, where the guerrillas were holding a political gathering with local peasants.

Salvadoran and U.S. authorities have accused the FMLN of murdering the two crewmembers who survived the accident, while the FMLN leadership reported that it had placed two of its members under arrest to investigate the incident.

Bush Criticized for Approving Military Aid

PA1701214291 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. Government has just reported that it has ordered the manufacture of 16,000 plastic bags to bring back the first U.S. youths who may be killed in the fighting against Iraq. President George Bush rejected the proposal for a political solution presented by the French president and also rejected other negotiation proposals made by other world leaders. In deciding between a political solution and a war, Bush preferred to order 16,000 plastic bags in which the first thousands of U.S. youths will be returned home.

Here in El Salvador, we are also conducting a negotiations process, which apparently seems to be moving along. President Bush, however, when making the decision to support negotiation or war, preferred to ask for the delivery of $42 million that had been frozen. The $42 million will be used to purchase more weapons, and there are going to be more possibilities for generals and colonels to get rich illegally. These generals and colonels murdered a total of 17 priests, including a bishop.

Watching television reports that are being received from the Middle East showing the soldiers who are about to go into combat, we have also heard interviews with several Salvadorans who left our country to go to the United States because they were fleeing repression and hunger and were recruited by the U.S. Army and sent to the Middle East. If war breaks out, some of these poor Salvadorans will be killed. Their bodies will be brought back in plastic bags, thanks to the warmongering attitude of the White House and President Bush. Thousands will be killed in the Middle East, including the Salvadorans who are there.

Here in El Salvador, we ask ourselves—and the entire nation is asking itself—the following question: How many poor Salvadorans will be killed because of the delivery of $42 million in military aid for an army that murders priests? It follows no logic. It makes no sense to continue shedding blood and continue supporting criminal generals here, just to get cheap oil in the Middle East and just when all of humanity is demanding political solutions to the conflicts of the world.

Guatemala

Serrano Announces Fuel-Saving Measures

PA1801033491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p3

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias has deplored the ongoing war in Iraq after the failure of diplomatic negotiations. He says that Guatemala is assured a supply of oil for 40 days and that there is no reason for hoarding or speculation.

On a radio and television network at midnight, President Serrano regretted that the world is engaged in a conflict of unforeseen consequences. He expressed hopes that Guatemalans will adopt the necessary measures to minimize the effects of the war.

He said that the situation had been evaluated at a cabinet meeting. It was determined that there is a 25-day oil supply on hand and a tanker is on its way with an additional 15-day supply.

He said: "The situation is not critical, especially as the Mexican and Venezuelan Governments have offered to continue supplying oil to Guatemala."

He said, however, that Guatemalans must start saving because we do not know how long the war in the Middle East will last. Therefore, we must follow a number of recommendations and regulations to save fuel.

Starting today, 17 January, official vehicles will not be allowed to operate after 1900, or on Saturdays and Sundays. Government officials are asked to use their vehicles as little as possible. Fuel and electricity will be rationed.

He also said that there are plans to establish staggered work and school schedules in the capital city to prevent rush-hour traffic jams.

He said there is no reason to raise prices or to hoard. Measures will be adopted if this is done.

The necessary consultations with other governments are being maintained to determine the evolution of the conflict and the projected supply of fuel to our country. Today the energy minister will announce details of the regulations to be adopted to save fuels and electric energy.

Foreign Minister Says Oil Supply Guaranteed

PA1701154891 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Jan 91 p 4

[Text] New Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu said yesterday that he has negotiated so that the oil supply is guaranteed, without increasing the prices, despite the Persian Gulf problem.

Arzu said that he talked with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez during his visit to that country and with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Tuxtla Gutierrez, during the Central American presidents' meeting.

The foreign minister said emphatically: "We will maintain the prices even in case of a war in the Persian Gulf because the fuel supplies are guaranteed; there is no reason to be afraid."

In another statement Arzu said that his foreign ministry will respect the courts of justice ruling concerning Zacapa Mayor Arnulfo Vargas' extradition, adding that "we will only sign the resolution."

Referring to the problem prevailing at the consulate in Los Angeles and the problems being experienced by Guatemalans living in that city, he simply said: "We are more concerned about the Persian Gulf situation."

Honduras

Armed Forces Chief: No Troops to Persian Gulf

PA1701183491 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir by Trino Murillo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Murillo] General, today you mentioned something important that the Honduran people should think about. I am referring to the economic impact of the war on the country. The people should avoid speculation, which may create a problem later on. What is your advice as a military officer to the Honduran people?

[Discua] First, I think that the government has adopted some economic measures regarding different products whose prices may go up, and I think that the Honduran people are very understanding. We have to foresee any difficult situation which we may face in the near future.

[Murillo] Are you prepared to guarantee the security of the strategic areas which may be targeted for attacks, as the Iraqi Government has announced?

[Discua] We have instructed all Armed Forces branches to be ready regarding this possibility.

[Murillo] General, what about the Palmerola Air Base?

[Discua] As I said before, the Soto Cano Air Base has implemented security measures based on the threats it has received.

[Murillo] Are you cooperating with the government's economic austerity plans? What are the general emergency measures that you have adopted?

[Discua] First, as I said before, 90 days ago we implemented a fuel consumption plan to restrict vehicles. This is an all-out austerity plan, which includes measures to restrict the use of public services as recommended by the government.

[Murillo] [Words indistinct] General Discua, we are part of and are involved in the Multinational Force. [sentence as heard] Will Honduras send troops to the Persian Gulf region in an observer or fighting capacity?

[Discua] No. Perhaps we will send troops in the future in an observer capacity or as part of a peacekeeping force, within the framework of an international organization such as the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Comments on Fuel Supplies

PA1701225491 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Economy and Commerce Minister Ramon Medina Luna has stated that Mexico and Venezuela have guaranteed that they will supply Honduras with petroleum over the next five years, even if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

In addition, the country will receive financing at a time when we are in a critical situation regarding our balance of payments, because we do not have enough capital in dollars to meet our import requirements, he said.

Medina reported that the agreement will allow Honduras, as well as the other Central American countries, five years to pay the petroleum bill. Thus, we will save in foreign exchange, and there will be a positive impact on our balance of payments.

During 1990, Honduras imported petroleum for $160 million, and we now have five years to pay this bill. This credit allows us to free up the resources for other needs in the country.

The economy and commerce minister said that the supply and financing of petroleum is guaranteed, even if a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

As long as the international petroleum price stays between $17 and $27 a barrel, economic cooperation will be given in the following manner: 20 percent of the bill will be deposited in a special account in the Central Bank, and the remaining 80 percent is to be deposited in the International Development Bank, IDB, for different programs.

The minister said that if the price of petroleum rises to more than $27 a barrel and reaches $40—that is the estimated price if a war breaks out—we would initially pay 30 percent to the Central Bank and the remaining 70 percent to the IDB.

If the price raises to more than $40 a barrel, however, then a new "summit" would have to be held to study and decide on the situation that we have then, he said.

Medina Luna said that a 10-percent rationing policy is in effect to allow us to confront the situation initially. The Texaco refinery has, therefore, been instructed to apply this rationing to the distribution companies, and these will do likewise with their clients.

The people are now receiving 10 percent less of their regular fuel supplies and this will continue, as we expect from the unfolding of events, which will probably bring about more drastic measures than those already in place, Medina Luna said.

The economy and commerce minister insisted on the possibility of closing gas stations after a certain time and implementing a rotation system whereby 50 percent of the government vehicles—25 percent are not currently being used—will stop circulating. He also noted the possibility of increasing public transportation services.

Medina Luna stated that the support given by Mexico and Venezuela, which have guaranteed Honduras the supply of crude oil and byproducts, represents a relief for the balance of payments. The government can now devote foreign currency to facing priority issues, such as the purchase of medicines.

Economy and Commerce Minister Ramon Medina Luna noted, however, that the outbreak of war will be a serious setback for the Honduran economy, which is now beginning to recover from the adjustment measures adopted in March 1990. He concluded that the outbreak of war will bring about a "regrettable" recession.

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Condemns U.S. Gulf Action

PA1701231791 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 5

[Message from former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on 16 January; place not given]

[Text] The Iraqi people are being bombarded by the U.S. Government's troops at this very moment. At 1800 on 16 January Nicaraguan time—0300 17 January 1991 Iraqi time—the U.S. Government, in a tough imperialist action and in a show of arrogance, launched a genocidal attack against the Iraqi people and the people in the Gulf area. The attack brings death, sorrow, and sacrifice not only to the people of Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and all the people in the area, but also to the U.S. people.

The war launched early this morning in Iraq by the United States against the friendly nation is a war in which the rich countries have become accomplices in the imperialist attack against the Iraqi people.

The war of the North against the South is the war of imperialism against the people. It is the war of the rich aginst the poor. We support the Iraqi people and the Arab people, and we reject the war that has been unleashed in that zone. We demand that the U.S. Government immediately stop bombarding the Iraqi people, that peace be given a chance, and that a peaceful solution be found.

There are very clear proposals in which Iraq has stated its wilingness for a peaceful solution. It has not been Iraq that has declared war on the American people. Rather the U.S. Government has launched destruction, death, and genocide against the Iraqi people and other people in the area, and it is sending American youths to their death.

In these difficult and dramatic moments of mankind's history, we issue an appeal to the international community and urge it to stand firmly against this criminal action.

We urge the Nicaraguan people to mobilize themselves against the imperialist action. The war against the Iraqi people and the Arab people must stop, the rich people's war against the poor people must stop, and the U.S. imperialists war against the poor must stop.

That is what we demand. A peaceful solution must be found to the war that is causing so much bloodshed for mankind and that will label the Yankee government—and those who have been its accomplices from different positions—as the rulers who are immersing mankind in the most grave crisis of its history, endangering the lives of millions of human beings and bringing terror and sorrow to every home in the world.

Government Asks FMLN To Return 28 Missiles

PA1801000291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2152 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo reported today that the Nicaraguan Government has asked the Salvadoran guerrillas to return the 28 surface-to-air missiles furnished by officers of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS). The missiles were to be used to shoot down Salvadoran war planes.

During a news conference, the minister said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) "must return" the missiles, which belong to the Nicaraguan Government, because if they do not return them "we will take measures." Lacayo refused to specify what measures would be taken.

Lacayo accused "second-level" Salvadoran leaders of buying the antiaircraft missiles from three officers and one former major of the EPS in October. The authorities arrested the four Nicaraguans in December to try them on charges of theft.

The official warned that if the Soviet-made missiles are not returned "as soon as possible," they will take measures against the Salvadoran citizens who live in Managua.

Lacayo explained that he contacted the FMLN's General Command, which, according to him, said that the missiles were bought by "second-level" men in the organization. The guerrillas shot down two helicopters with the missiles a few weeks ago.

Energy Institute Official Outlines Oil Reserves

PA1801003591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE)] Hydrocarbons [Department] Director Ricardo Melendez said on 8 January that the Nicaraguan Government is adopting the necessary measures to ensure the country's oil supply, at least for 45 days, in the event war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

Melendez said that the government has been storing "supplies of crude and by-products" (gasoline and diesel) to offset the effects of a sudden increase in the price of crude oil.

According to Melendez, 45 days after the start of the war, which he believes will end rapidly, the price of oil will drop, allowing Nicaragua to replenish its stock.

Gulf conflict analysts and specialists, however, do not share the opinion that the war will end rapidly and foresee rather a protracted conflict that could affect U.S. troops, especially because they still have not adapted to the climate.

"We have stockpiles in reserve enabling us to hold out for 45 days without having to go to the international market," where the price for crude oil is very high, Melendez said, who quoted experts.

The hydrocarbons official, whose work comes under the INE, did not confirm or deny whether the government is considering severe fuel rationing in the event war breaks out in the Persian Gulf on 15 January.

Nicaragua has gasoline, diesel, and bunker reserves for 30 days. Nevertheless, a 245,000-barrel shipment is expected to arrive on 12 January, which would place reserves at the 60-day level.

Melendez said that the idea behind stockpiling is to "try and reduce the impact on local prices and not halt productivity."

Melendez said that "prices force self-rationing" in fuel consumption. "Up to today, gasoline sales have been down 25 percent."

The government official said that the country's daily gasoline consumption has dropped. Diesel consumption, used mainly in agriculture and industry, has dropped 33 percent.

Oil price increases are "speculative," and fluctuate depending on the negotiations between Iraq and the United States, Melendez said.

Presently Nicaragua pays $0.273 for a barrel of gasoline and $0.3276 for a barrel of diesel [previous two figures as published] and consumes daily an average of 2,000 barrels of gasoline, 4,000 barrels of diesel, 4,500 barrels of bunker fuel, and 700 barrels of gas.

World oil price and rationing trends would be reversed if war did not break out in the Gulf. Oil could be quoted at lower prices because of the over production that oil exporting countries have already guaranteed to cover Kuwait oil production deficits, Melendez said.

Iraq has the world's largest oil reserves and blowing up their wells would mean "serious damage to the world ecology," Melendez said.

Nicaragua has the third highest gasoline price in Central America. A gallon of gasoline costs $2.35. Panama has just become number one at $2.44 a gallon, followed by El Salvador at $2.38, according to the information supplied.

Former RN Commander To Join Administration

PA1801040191 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Roberto Orozco B.]

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado reported on 14 January that Israel Galeano, Commander Franklin of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], will be appointed to the Government Ministry as part of the reorganization that is being carried out in that ministry.

Minister Hurtado refused to report on the duties or office that "Franklin" will have. Franklin is the third RN commander to be appointed to the administration, and the first former "contra" to work within the structures of the Government Ministry.

The reorganization of the Government Ministry, caused by budget limitations, is the result of the decentralization

of the administrative department. The decentralization is being carried out in order to reinforce the operational branches, mainly the National Police.

Personnel changes in the different posts in the police and other Government Ministry directorates will be studied this week but will be officially announced next week, said the minister.

Several local radio stations, however, have been unofficially reporting the relocation of Commander Roger Cabezas, chief of the National Traffic Department, and the transfer of Commander Christian Munguia, current chief of the Managua police, to the 5th Region. Minister Hurtado neither confirmed nor denied these reports.

There will be a rotation of chiefs in the ministry in the different regions and departments of the country. A civilian intelligence agency will also be created and the Civilian Inspectors' Directorate will be bolstered to ensure that the ministry's members show the proper respect and behavior.

Regarding the civilian intelligence agency, Minister Hurtado said that it will not have a single similarity with the intelligence agencies that existed during the past regimes, the Sandinist DGSE [General Directorate of State Security] and the Somozist OSN [National Security Organization].

In this regard, Minister Hurtado said that he is studying the possibility of placing this agency under the Government Ministry. He said that the agency will simply report information without taking any further steps, leaving the police to follow or process any case, or carry out interrogations or arrests.

"More than anything, this agency will work to secure respect for human rights and will search for information in all cases," said the minister.

This year the ministry will strengthen the operation to disarm civilians and to reintroduce the demobilized members of the RN into society. The project for the creation of a "Coordination Directorate" with the municipalities is already in motion, particularly in the aspects not covered by Inifom [Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development].

"We are targeting resources for the creation of an antidrug department to fight drug consumption and trafficking within our territory. The ministry will thus become a stabilizing agent not only through the police's actions against this crime, but through all the ministry's nation-wide actions," Hurtado added.

Panama

Endara Comments on Security, Economic Measures

PA1801035991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2311 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany met this afternoon with Michael Stone, executive secretary of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] executive board, during a cabinet meeting at the Palace of the Herons. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Deane Hinton; the Panama Canal administrator, Gilberto Guardia; and other U.S. officials.

Following a brief meeting with the executive secretary of the PCC directorate board, the president of the Republic made the following statements in front of the Palace of the Herons.

[Begin recording] [Endara] Everything seems to indicate that the countries which represent—or support—the United Nations have achieved a great victory, particularly in the air, with very few casualties. I think that the truth and reason will prevail over evil.

[Reporter] What measures will your government implement given this situation?

[Endara] There is not much we can do. I think that the basic thing is for the citizens to remain calm and work normally. The situation in the Republic of Panama is normal. We must adopt some security measures to avoid instances of negligence, but I think we can remain calm in Panama.

[Reporter] Mr. President, why are the U.S. authorities at the presidential palace right now? What is being coordinated?

[Endara] No, no. The Secretary of the Army came to Panama for a PCC directorate board meeting. He is chairman of the directorate board and, given the current situation, he must....[corrects himself] he has cut short his visit and will return today. We had a meeting scheduled for tomorrow and we decided to hold it today. He simply wanted to greet us and talk about some minor issues, but nothing [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What about the gasoline? What measures will be adopted?

[Endara] To everyone's surprise, the price of gasoline dropped today but those are unpredictable things that happen in the stock market. Thank God that the world seems to have prepared for this event and oil was purchased. There are many reserves in the world and, thank God, the situation has not resulted in a price increase. This is a very strange thing, like other strange things which happen in the world.

[Reporter] Mr. President, referring to your government's preparations to counter any movement or terrorist attack on the Panama Canal, are we prepared for this?

[Endara] We have a general plan for our national security. I do not foresee anything. I do not want to scare the citizenry by implying that something will happen in Panama or that something is about to happen in Panama. I do not believe that. I do believe that certain measures must be adopted, simply to avoid carelessness.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what economic measures will your government adopt given the current situation in the world?

[Endara] There is no need to adopt any economic measures at this time because the price of oil, which is essential for us, has not increased—thank God. [end recording]

Arias Calderon: War Poses No Immediate Danger

PA1701151091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government minister, said last night that the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf does not pose an immediate threat for Panama and urged citizens to carry on with their daily activities as usual.

Arias Calderon, who is also vice president of Christian Democratic International, said that the Panamanian Government is closely monitoring developments in the Middle East.

He said that all public institutions that could be most affected by the possible repercusions of the conflict are maintaining close communications and coordination with the presidency of the republic.

Meanwhile, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford urged Panamanians to pray for all those who become casualties of the intransigency and irrationality of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Last night, minutes after the allied forces began attacking Iraq and Kuwait, Southern Command soldiers and national police agents began a heavy security operation at the Bridge of the Americas and canal areas in view of a possible terrorist attack by Arab commando units.

The joint operation participants are asking people to show their identification and searching vehicles using the bridge. Security at the Tocumen International Airport and U.S. Embassy has been stepped up.

The Commerce Ministry had announced that fuel rationing will be instituted should the price of petroleum reach the $50 per barrel mark.

Other measures would include establishing a single work shift for the public and private sectors and the circulation of vehicles with registration plate numbers ending in odd and even numbers on alternating days.

Security Measures Increased in Canal Area

PA1701151291 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 24-A

[Report by Elkilia Santos]

[Text] If the Persian Gulf crisis grows, that could mean an increase in the Panama Canal traffic because ships will be redirected to avoid the Suez Canal, Panama Canal administrator Gilberto Guardia said yesterday. In addition to the ships that normally transit through the Panamanian route, other ships may use this passageway was as an alternate, he said.

He added, however, that it is difficult to predict what long-term impact the Persian Gulf crisis could have, considering that if there is a worldwide economic crisis and the trade level of goods and products drops, the usage of the Panama Canal could drop.

The Panama Canal administrator explained that in the event of war, the canal will remain neutral and, thus, open to all countries, since this is a waterway that provides a service to the world. He said that the Panama Canal Commission has stepped up security measures and the staff is on alert to report any abnormality. "We really do not foresee any danger from the conflict, but we have taken security measures simply because the world is going through a critical situation, and we do not want anything abnormal to happen because we did not take the appropriate measures," he remarked.

Guardia refrained from discussing the security measures that have been implemented so far to protect the canal.

Tocumen Airport Security Measures Intensified

PA1801032991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Tocumen International Airport authorities, headed by Director Captain Hermes Carrizo and Civil Aeronatics Director Captain John Bennett, held a news conference this morning to explain some of the new airport security measures intended to protect tourists, as well as Panamanians.

The news conference was also attended by the Ipat [Panamanian Institute of Tourism] director and deputy director, as well as by customs director Rodrigo Arosemena.

[Ipat director Anel Beliz] "We are going to take all sorts of protective measures, including constant patrols of the airport area and the road from the airport into the city. We want to prevent any sort of incident that may affect tourists. As you well know, Canadian tourists are already arriving on weekly chartered flights, and we must give them security, in accordance with the agreement that expires in April 1992."

The current Persian Gulf situation was another topic discussed, which merits having varied security measures at Tocumen Airport implemented.

[Bennett] "We are implementing certain stepped-up alert phases to allow us to respond to any situation that may arise."

Security at the air terminal is presently on yellow alert for the purpose of preventing terrorist incidents.

[Carrizo] "This has been done precisely because we have interests here that may be important to those involved—I am referring exclusively to Arabs or Iraqis. We have interests here that those forces could damage."

Arab Community Disclaims Alleged Harassment

PA1701142791 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Jan 91 p 23

[Article by Martin Gonzalez S.]

[Text] "We have never been mistreated by either the U.S. or the Panamanian Government; and both U.S. and Panamanian citizens have always looked upon us with respect, thus we love Panama as we love our country of origin," said the members of the Arab community who reside in Paso Canoas Internacional in Chiriqui Province.

In a communique sent to the EL SIGLO editorial room and signed by Ghazi H. Kais A., naturalized citizen with identity card No. 160971, the Arab residents in Paso Canoas explained a report which had been carried by a radio station nationwide indicating that "the Arab businessmen in Paso Canoas were being harassed by the gringos."

The Arabs in Paso Canoas have not been harassed by the U.S. soldiers, and all kinds of rumors have circulated regarding the presence of U.S. troops in Chiriqui Province.

The citizens said in their communique: "Most of us have Panamanian wives and children and we live peacefully here, always observing the law and Panamanian customs."

In the last few days, people with evil intentions have tried to take advantage of the Persian Gulf situation by circulating rumors about the members of the Arab community in Paso Canoas, who have always shown their affection for Panamanians.

In their communique, the Arabs in Paso Canoas added: "We want to make it clear that we are peace-loving men and as such, we want peace to always prevail in Panama. We ask the Lord to enlighten the minds of the leaders of the United States and Iraq so that they can find a peaceful solution to the problems in the Persian Gulf, thus preventing a war from taking place."

It is convenient to state that, as opposed to other countries, the Arabs who reside in Panama, particularly those in Paso Canoas Internacional, have shown their love for work and their desire to provide job opportunities for many Panamanians.

Endara Asks Jaramillo To Serve as Mediator

PA1601201291 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1222 GMT 15 Jan 91

["Confidential" report by Juan Gozain]

[Text] Today's first scoop is this: Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has asked Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo to serve as mediator between Panama and some Latin American countries. Panama has problems with some countries—Peru, Ecuador, and especially Cuba—as a result of people seeking asylum in these countries' embassies in Panama City.

It turns out that some people in Panama believe they are politically persecuted and have sought refuge in the embassies. While the governments of these Latin American countries demand that Panama grant safe-conducts to the asylum seekers, the Panamanian Government has refused to give them safe-conducts because it does not believe they are political refugees.

The Colombian foreign minister met with President Endara for two hours and the two leaders discussed how to resolve this situation.

Ford Threatens To 'Kick the Gringos Out'

PA1801133391 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish 15 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford, a controversial government official, said during a political meeting in San Francisco, Veraguas Province, that he would kick the gringos out of Panama.

During a meeting with fellow Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] members, to show support for a candidate from that party in electoral circuit 9-3 in the elections scheduled to be held on 27 January, Vice President Ford, who is also the planning and economic policy minister, said that "if the gringos help Colonel Eduardo Herrera or any other citizen topple them (the government), he, Ford, will kick the imperialists out of Panama." [quoted portion in third person as published]

In the opinion of local residents, who were surveyed, Ford's visit to San Francisco, Veraguas Province, was not as successful as expected because the local Molirena candidate does not enjoy the sympathy of the voters, since they are tired of the candidate humiliating the local residents. Therefore, "the people will eat and drink, but come election day, they will vote for another candidate."

Ford's statements were made on the same day that the U.S. Southern Command increased its military presence, especially along the border with Costa Rica, by air, sea, and land, claiming to be "defending U.S. interests" in our country considering that war is on the verge of breaking out in the Persian Gulf.

UK Presents MLAA Draft Proposal to Government

PA1801043191 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 91 pp A1, A10

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] The UK has presented a proposal to the Panamanian Government for a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement (MLAA) to combat crimes related to money laun-

dering and drug trafficking. Official sources have reported that the proposal is similar to the one currently being negotiated with the United States.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said the draft proposal was given to Ricardo Arias Calderon, Panamanian first vice president and government minister, after he visited London in mid-1990.

Panama and the United States have been negotiating an MLAA since March 1990. There have been, however, delays in signing this agreement because it includes matters related to fiscal crimes and corporations.

A commission of U.S. congressmen, headed by New York Democrat Charles Rangel, visited Panama during the first week of 1991. After the visit, the commission reported that it was "disappointed" because drugs continue to be transshipped to the United States through Panama.

Rangel said he favored the signing of the MLAA agreement and indicated that the banks that operate in Panama are getting their own way.

The UK proposal was sent by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to the attorney general on 20 September 1990. It is a 13-page "model" agreement similar to the one signed between the UK and Northern Ireland.

The UK's proposed MLAA has 15 articles that define the scope of the assistance that is to be given to "the investigations and procedures that are to be made in regard to drug trafficking, including the tracking, prohibition, and confiscation of drug traffickers' equipment and profits."

Article 2 of the UK's MLAA proposal defines the terms "confiscation," "drug traffickers' equipment," "profits," and the so-called instituted procedures.

The document also stipulates that the UK Home Office is to be the central authority on assistance requests and that the procedures to this end must be channeled through it. In comparison, the U.S. Attorney General's Office is to be the central authority in the MLAA with the United States.

The UK's proposed agreement establishes that requests for assistance are to be forwarded in writing and that only in emergencies "will requests be made verbally, and these must be followed up in writing."

Argentina

Menem Assesses Gulf Situation, Security Issues

Deems Support 'Significant Step'

PY1701150491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1333 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem asserted today that the role of the Argentine ships in the Persian Gulf region is one of logistic support, not belligerence. He noted, however, that this does not mean that Argentina is neutral, adding: No, Argentina is already at war with the attitude it has adopted.

President Menem stated that the position adopted by the country represents a significant step forward by Argentina in this new international order because it is observing resolutions adopted opportunely by the UN Security Council.

In a news conference granted this morning at Government House, Menem voiced regret over the war but noted that the situation had reached such an extreme that there was no chance of getting the Iraqi president to withdraw from or free the territory of the small nation of Kuwait, which Iraq annexed through a surprise attack.

After stating that Saddam Husayn's attitude was thoughtless and arbitrary, Menem said that last night's attack, and those being carried out by the multinational forces against the Iraqis, are so devastating that there is practically no chance that Husayn's forces will be capable of reacting unless they have a secret and miraculous weapon to reverse the course of events.

The chief of state reiterated his belief that the war in the Persian Gulf will end in about five days and noted that all the necessary measures have been taken to safeguard the assets and lives of citizens in Argentina in light of possible terrorist attacks.

The president also reported that he did not speak with U.S. President George Bush on the telephone, as some rumors had stated. He said: I spoke to him the day before yesterday, and there was no need to do so at this time because I was certain that war would break out.

During the chat with journalists accredited to Government House, President Menem asserted that there will be no fuel shortage in Argentina. He emphasized: We may ration fuel consumption only if there is a very serious emergency, but this possibility does not yet exist.

Menem said Argentina has an oil and gas surplus and could, if requested, aid neighboring countries such as Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile to solve supply problems that may arise due to the war in the Persian Gulf.

Referring to the possibility of adopting exceptional measures in the oil deregulation process currently under way, Menem said measures will probably have to be implemented if the price of a barrel of oil exceeds $35, but if international prices remain at the same level things in Argentine will continue as before.

Regarding oil prices at the international level, Menem said he did not think the demand for oil was strong enough to trigger runaway price competition. He voiced his belief and certainty that the war in the Persian Gulf will end very soon.

Commenting on the economic situation in Argentina, Menem stressed that January's inflation rate may be the same as during the past few months or it may increase by one or two points. He stressed that it will never again reach previous levels.

Regarding an eventual increase in prices, he emphasized that prices mirror the actual situation and that there are some readjustments in prices for some foodstuffs.

After reiterating that the recent cabinet changes were necessary to continue the process begun 18 months ago, Menem, in response to a question, stated: Justicialism is going to win everywhere, you can be sure of that.

Regarding the situation in Tucuman Province, the chief of state said that a very deep conflict exists in that province; security was not guaranteed and this led to federal intervention.

On the situation in Tierra del Fuego, Menem stated that former Governor Martin Torres was not elected by the people but by the president. I gave him the post and I believe that his tour as governor has been long enough; that is why we replaced him, he said. Referring to Torres' resistance, Menem noted that it did not last long and that Torres had decided that he was mistaken and accepted the change.

Regarding Catamarca, the president expressed his confidence that the investigation into the Maria Soledad Morales case will conclude quickly. He considered this to be a regrettable, arbitrary, absurd, and clumsy crime, and he flatly rejected the idea that the federal government will intervene in that province. The conditions are right for an exhaustive investigation, he noted.

Comments on Increased Security

PY1701215491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2017 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said today that all necessary measures to guarantee the lives and property of all inhabitants have been adopted in Argentina in the face of possible terrorist attacks. Menem said this to media at Government House when he was asked about the possibility of terrorist attacks in the country as a result of the Persian Gulf war.

A special security operation is being implemented in this capital; surveillance at the main embassies and consulates of countries participating in the Persian Gulf war has been redoubled. Police surveillance at meeting points, residential areas, and religious buildings for the communities involved has also been intensified.

Security measures have also been adopted at Ezeiza International Airport and passengers are being accompanied to pre-departure areas for the arrival and departure of airplanes. Airport officials have asked citizens to diminish their presence at the airport, given the security measures that have been adopted, and all luggage is being scanned by x-rays.

Similar measures have been adopted at the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport, where passenger security measures have been tightened in the face of possible attacks. Similar situations can be observed in most of the Argentine provinces, where police surveillance in airports, airfields, fuel depots, and synagogues has been doubled in keeping with Interior Ministry orders.

Says UN, Not U.S. at War

PY1801020491 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2309 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with President Carlos Menem by Mariano Grondona, at the Argentina Televisora Color studio in Buenos Aires on the "Key Hour" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Grondona] Let us start with the subject of war. People in the street are asking themselves about Saddam. People do not understand him. Given this terrible display of military power, how do you, who have cultural links with the Arab world, interpret Saddam?

[Menem] I have said—not now, but in the past—when I spoke on this subject three or four months ago, I said there would be war. I said there would be war because Saddam is crazy.

[Grondona] Directly?

[Menem] Directly. For me, he is totally alienated. He cannot lead a country to a massacre, he cannot be against the whole world. This is the truth.

I was listening to your introduction. We must clarify this to the people. It is not the United States. It is the United Nations. The UN adopted this measure to the extent that, in the raids on Iraq, at least 150 Saudi Arabian airplanes participated. There are also French troops ready for combat, and there have been British and French airplane raids. So, they are joint forces that respond to the resolutions passed by the UN.

[Grondona] Could the Argentine ships participate in raids?

[Menem] No. The Argentine ships went there to comply with the UN resolution on the embargo on the aggressor country. Given the UN resolution, we requested congressional authorization—I am not sure whether it is necessary or not, but to be on good terms with the legislative branch—to provide logistical support. The Constitution states that in this sort of case, the executive branch must request authorization to enter or leave war. The other measures are secondary, but evidently, they are an essential aspect. Argentina is one of 28 countries that are not neutral in this conflict. From the moment the ships were in the Gulf, Argentina was not neutral.

Now, this non-neutrality may be interpreted in different ways. Some people say we are at war, others say we are not. The real thing, the truth, is that Argentina respects the UN resolutions. We are waiting for Congress to decide on logistical support for the joint forces that are fighting in the Gulf. Argentina will not enter combat. For those who are making a terrible drama out of this and for those journalists who asked Commander Rosenthal [commander of Argentine forces in the Gulf] to look after their boys, the Argentine ships are more than 1,000 km away from the operations center. They are not running any kind of risk for the time being. I reiterate, they will remain in that zone, enforcing the embargo on Iraq and eventually, providing logistical support to a group of countries as ordered by the UN, as long as the National Congress authorizes it.

[Grondona] President, do you completely exclude the possibility that Argentine ships could enter the war for any reason? Do you totally exclude this possibility?

[Menem] Totally, totally. Now, if they are attacked.... [Menem laughs]

[Grondona] They are war ships.

[Menem] They are war ships after all. The people who are on these ships are combat people. There are no soldiers. They are officers and noncommissioned officers [NCO's]....

[Grondona, interrupting] They are professionals.

[Menem] They are war professionals. They have prepared for this. There are no soldiers there. They are professionals and volunteers because they freely signed up to be on those ships. Thousands of officers and NCO's who wanted to go to combat or at least, to go to the Gulf were left out. When the situation started, Grenadier officers, which is the presidential protection unit, asked me for permission to go to the area.

[Grondona] President, how did you react, what was your first feeling, when the Radical Civic Union [UCR] suggested in Congress the withdrawal of our ships from the Gulf right now?

[Menem] I was sorry. The UCR's attitude is similar to that of other political parties such as the Movement Toward Socialism, the Workers Party, and the Communist Party. I felt sorry, pain. It means to begin a retreat

when this kind of support is most needed to end this dramatic situation in that part of the world. Argentina should be where it is.

Mariano, thanks to the Argentine attitude, we obtained authorization for our airplanes to overfly regions in conflict, to land in Saudi Arabia; in the beginning we were even authorized to land in Baghdad. Right now we have a Hercules airplane flying toward Amman or Damascus, where there are Argentine citizens who want to return, to evacuate them from Syria or Amman. We have evacuated Chilean, Mexican, and Venezuelan citizens and taken them to Rome. I talked with the Argentine ambassador in Italy and those people have been very thankful. Even the chiefs of state sent us messages thanking us for evacuating their countrymen from countries in the conflict area that are practically besieged.

[Grondona] President, how will all this end?

[Menem] I believe it will all end with an overwhelming victory for the UN.

[Grondona] A girl from Devoto, Maria Jose, called me up and told me: I am 16 and I am puzzled about whether Menem has fallen into a trap; I feel like a murderess.

[Menem] No! Can you not see? This is just a lack of information or the result of unintentionally distorted information. Menem is not involved in war; Argentina is not in the middle of a conflict zone, fighting. Argentina is complying with the resolutions that were dictated in a timely manner by the UN. The day when Argentina should go to war, the world will practically be at war. Right? The day when the Argentines have to go and fight—if that possibility occurs—Congress will have to decide.

[Grondona] Someone from Barrio Norte asked why the United States declares war on Iraq over the annexation of Kuwait and the world condemns Iraq if nobody said anything when Israel annexed the Gaza Strip and other territories?

[Menem] My God, the United States did not declare war on Iraq. The UN adopted that measure and gave the green light for military actions to recover Kuwait's independence. As for the second part of the question, I tell you that the situation that was going on until this war broke out will certainly change when this war is over....

[Grondona, interrupting] A Palestinian state....

[Menem, interrupting] Because great world leaders have said it. Even the United States has said that after this war, the situation of the Israeli-Arab issue may change. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Interviewed on Gulf War

PY1801132891 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2339 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Guido Di Tella by Mariano Grondona at the Argentina Televisora Color studio in Buenos Aires on the "Key Hour" program—live]

[Text] [Grondona] I wanted to concentrate the remaining minutes we have on the subject of the Persian Gulf, and I thought a lot about whom to invite to talk. It had to be an intelligent, very well-informed person, connected with the subject, so inevitably I thought of Minister Di Tella. He is defense minister, perhaps to his own surprise....

[Di Tella, interrupting] Yes, of course.

[Grondona] I think that even the military is surprised, right?

[Di Tella] It is the surprise element.

[Grondona] The tactic of the surprise element, right?

[Di Tella] Yes.

[Grondona] He is intelligent, without doubt, although one must not say this in front of him, and he is coming from the United States. He has just newly arrived.

We have just talked with the president of the Republic about Saddam Husayn, about the war. How do you interpret the war in the Gulf?

[Di Tella] Well, basically, I think that Saddam somehow misunderstands the world. I was very impressed by a scene watched by the whole world, when in time of the hostages there were some child hostages. Husayn was with these children who were tense, and he tried to caress them and seem soft, and he used this film as propaganda to show his humanitarian aspect, when the sensation that the film really produced was of repugnance.

[Grondona] Yes, terrible.

[Di Tella] Now, I was impressed with the fact that this man does not realize what is repugnant and what is not repugnant in the world. This a fact more serious than the scene itself. This man and his regime are completely disconnected from the world. He does not understand what is going on, and he does totally irrational things because he does not understand the rationality of the new world—I mean a new world that already is already many years old.

[Grondona] For example, it is as if he imagines that the whole world is taking to the streets demonstrating in favor or Iraq and Saddam and condemning the United States. Perhaps he believes something like that.

[Di Tella] Yes, he must believe something like that. Now, he also mounted a second phase of his propaganda which

he himself believes. For example, the great danger that an Iraqi attack on Israel represents.

[Grondona] Yes, he wanted to get Israel involved....

[Di Tella, interrupting] Yes, he wanted to get Israel in the war to frustrate the UN and create confusion. Now, in the United States I learned that—according to the Americans—an attack on Israel would not be probable. Why? I said. Because he does not have missile and air capability. That is, he does not have the nuclear capability and everything else he says he has. His installations are half-built.

To tell the truth, the equipment and war capability are directly linked with the general capability of a country.

[Grondona] Yes. An underdeveloped country cannot carry out a developed war....

[Di Tella, interrupting] No. Sometimes some countries' military capability is more developed than the rest of the country.

[Grondona] The Soviet Union, for example.

[Di Tella] The Soviet Union is an example. The UK is somehow another example, since the British are the best in the world but not economically. There always is a relation; this combination cannot be absent, so the same happens with Iraq. Iraq has bought materiel, spent a lot of money, but everything is half-built, nothing works. Iraq did not do the one thing that would have made sense within this crazy strategy of theirs. They thought, due to this misunderstanding, that the United States was not speaking seriously, so they were destroyed in a couple of hours.

[Grondona] Have they been destroyed?

[Di Tella] Their Air Force has been destroyed. Therefore, I am surprised that what is happening is exactly what was foreseen. I am always surprised at what surprises me....

[Grondona, interrupting] It has always been said that war is a Pandora's box....

[Di Tella, interrupting] Right. Therefore it was foreseen that the air strike would last a few days, three or four days. The ground strike is different.

[Grondona] Of course.

[Di Tella] Without air protection an Army cannot defend itself for long. I heard—I do not know whether it is true—about the defection of....

[Grondona, interrupting] ...tanks. This is a key issue, if it is true, right?

[Di Tella] If it were true, it would be a key issue.

[Grondona] I want to clarify for the public that it is said that 50 Iraqi tanks are marching to turn themselves in to the Egyptians, according to a rumor.

[Di Tella] I am not sure of that. Sometimes in a war of this type there is also information....

[Grondona, interrupting] The first victim is truth.

[Di Tella] Right, that can be the case. Yet I believe that their policy has been one of total suicide. Theirs is an insane strategy, because they did not do the only thing they could do; that is, to withdraw.

[Grondona] There is a question that is a bit hard for us. However, the truth is the truth, right? Were we also misguided when we went to the Malvinas islands?

[Di Tella] We were completely misguided. Regarding the Malvinas issue, we were not confused over whether or not we had rights over the islands. We had and we do have a clear position in this regard. The point is how to uphold one's rights in the modern world. Rights are upheld in a specific manner, because otherwise such rights—like the rights that we have obtained—can be jeopardized. This was the result of our misguided attitude. Both situations are completely different and comparisons are a bit unpleasant.

Yet I believe that if one wants to join the world, it is central to understand international relations and to realize what can be done and what cannot be done, what will yield results and what will not yield results, and the balance of costs and benefits.

I believe that the Malvinas issue has marked the end of Argentina's isolationism. The Argentine drama of the past 30 or 40 years is that our country has isolated itself from the rest of the world.

[Grondona] Like Saddam?

[Di Tella] That is why I say it. (?Why do you insist on making comparisons?)

[Grondona, interrupting] Well, it does not have the same dreadful connotation.

[Di Tella] Our situation does not amount to even 1 percent of what is happenening there. Yet the comparison does stand regarding the lack of understanding and regarding isolation. We thought we were the owners of truth. We thought we were the Argentine model, the peculiar country, the unique country that was different and strange, but we were actually all upside down.

[Grondona] Er... [hesitates] I almost called you ambassador.

[Di Tella, laughing] Well....

[Grondona] Minister, Minister Di Tella, one last question: Let us look a bit at the future. If, as both you and President Menem believe, this situation ends with an overwhelming victory—in days or weeks—will not the balance of power betwen the United States and Europe and Japan be deeply modified? Will this situation not make the United States again the neighborhood's boss?

[Di Tella] I do not think so. I think it will actually be a great victory and that President Bush's political position, both at home and abroad, will be extraordinarily strengthened. Yet I do not believe there will be substantive changes because there are major problems in international relations. There is an obvious U.S. economic decline that has its own effects. Both Japan and the EEC have registered relative prosperity, and this has considerable weight. I believe that the end of the conflict will put a final end to the adventures between countries....

[Grondona, interrupting] A final end to future dictators....

[Di Tella, interrupting] And to future dictators. I believe this will bring progress to the world.

[Grondona] Have you completely ruled out the possibility that Saddam will force the United States into an extended land war action that will undermine the political support for Bush?

[Di Tella] Look, I cannot rule out that possibility. I express my hopes, and I repeat the information that I obtained in the United States, where that possibility is not considered very likely. I believe what they most strongly feared was the attack against Israel, and this incident has already been overcome.

[Grondona] Thank you very much. I wish you success as defense minister. I will try to summarize the miniprogram we have presented.

Stay tuned for our commercials before the summary. I do not know why, but commercials will come first, and the summary will come later. So stay tuned. Tennis players Vilas and Noah will come later, so you will stay tuned anyway.

Foreign Minister Discusses Role of Ships in Gulf

PY1701125091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1015 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stated today that U.S. President George Bush called President Carlos Menem at 2130 [2330 GMT] on 16 January to tell him that the attack against Iraq had begun, and Cavallo stressed that Argentina's vessels are not in range of Iraqi missiles.

In a news conference early this morning at the Foreign Ministry, Cavallo stressed that Argentina is not neutral and that the rest of the world is not neutral [words indistinct], and he added that if the Argentine vessels are attacked they will exercise the right to defend themselves.

The minister also indicated that the State Intelligence Secretariat has been charged with preventing terrorist attacks and that it is making important contributions to guarantee the security of citizens, although he did not go into detail on the topic.

The news conference was held at 1088 Reconquista Street after a meeting with Defense Minister Guido Di Tella and Chief of the Joint Staff Emilio Osses, both of whom also participated in the news conference.

Cavallo stated: President Menem instructed the defense minister and myself to implement the planned procedures. Together with the State Intelligence Secretariat and the Interior Ministry, we have created a task force and we have confirmed that our vessels are carrying out patrol and control tasks pertaining to the economic embargo.

He added that the vessels are not in range of Iraqi missiles and that relatives of the officers and NCO's who are in the zone can therefore rest easy. He explained that the personnel are fully prepared to face any type of danger.

Cavallo reiterated that the Argentines and other Latin American citizens that departed Saudi Arabia on 16 January have arrived in Italy, noting that the duly planned evacuation is being carried out and that the Hercules C-130 aircraft is ready to make more trips. He explained that the evacuated Latin American citizens include Mexicans, Chileans, Brazilians, Venezuelans, and two Canadians.

The foreign minister explained that the trade embargo being carried out by the Argentine vessels comes within the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 665 and that our forces are strictly complying with those instructions.

Cavallo pointed out: There is no plan to bring our forces back. On the basis of President Menem's constitutional powers, we decided that Argentina should cooperate, and in December we also submitted a draft law to Congress requesting authorization for our vessels to give logistic support, because it is an obligation.

Cavallo believes that this is not a war between the United States and Iraq but a war between the member nations of the United Nations and a member of the organization which violated the sovereignty of another country.

Regarding President Bush's address last night, Cavallo stated that it was an eloquent and sincere presentation of the reasons that led to the use of force.

Asked about the possibility of Congress rejecting Argentina's participation in the war, Cavallo stated that this would mean that we could not give our vessels instructions to provide logistic support but they would continue their task of controlling trade in the zone.

He noted: I have already stated that I am willing to go before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and I hope the legislators will agree to accelerate the steps leading to a congressional debate.

Asked if the trade embargo would disappear with the outbreak of war, he said that it would formally continue,

but from a practical viewpoint it might not have the same importance as when there was no war. However, he added, we believe that the continued presence of our vessels in the zone represents a responsible attitude for Argentina.

Cavallo added: We believe that Argentina has an obligation to provide logistic support and that is why we have asked for congressional permission.

Regarding the State Intelligence Secretariat task force, Cavallo indicated that one of the key aspects of all kinds of war situation planning involves the security of Argentine citizens and the prevention of terrorist actions. He added: The intelligence services are contributing a great deal of data that leads to decisions that we cannot elaborate on, but with this information we are trying to prevent any possible attack.

Cavallo indicated that in December a Senate committee approved the draft decree submitted by the executive branch with a majority, adding: I do not know why the Senate has not met, and as the draft decree is still in the Senate, it has not been debated by the Chamber of Deputies.

He stated that the executive branch ordered the dispatch of the vessels because it understood that it had the power to do so; this is why the vessels will continue in the zone for patrol purposes, and why the executive branch believes we can expand the instructions to include logistic support. We understand that this represents a solidarity that must be exchanged between UN members, he said.

Although he considers the risks to be minimal, he stressed that the Argentine vessels have instructions to exercise the right of self-defense if attacked, as would be the case anywhere in the world under any circumstances.

He stressed that the Rio Group does not have an antiwar position and noted that it has supported all the Security Council Resolutions. He also pointed out that 29 nations have vessels in the zone.

He added that, far from being a warmongering position, this is [words indistinct] or reestablish, provoked the war.

Cavallo indicated that Congress is not debating whether the vessels should return because no one has submitted a draft law on this issue. Answering another question, he noted Argentina has been implementing strict security measures to prevent attacks for 60 days.

He believes the conflict will end quickly because the attack was aimed at specific key objectives to dismantle Iraq's missile and nonconventional weapon capabilities.

Security Increased at Gulf Combatants' Facilities

PY1701165091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The implementation of special safety measures, including the tightening of security at the main embassies and consulates of countries involved in the Persian Gulf war, is taking place in the federal capital.

The number of agents guarding diplomatic missions and recreation sites for these communities in Argentina has been increased.

Minister: No Intelligence on Terrorist Attacks

PY1701220091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (NA)—Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa has said that there are no intelligence reports envisaging terrorist attacks in our country following the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war. He endorsed President Carlos Menem's statement: "We are at war." Mera made these remarks at Government House upon returning from Ushuaia, where he installed Adrian Farina as new governor of Tierra del Fuego.

Admits Pro-Iraqi Groups Exist

PY1801140891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1306 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa has admitted that pro-Iraqi groups exist in Argentina and other Latin American countries and in this respect he did not reject "eventual actions by some misfits due to the government's position" on the Persian Gulf conflict.

Asked what capability for action these pro-Iraqi groups have, the minister said that "one cannot reject this type of action that some misfits could carry out."

Mera Figueroa made these remarks this morning just before he left for Tucuman, where he will install Julio Cesar Araoz, the province's federal intervenor.

The minister stressed that the government "is trying to cover all bases," and he made it clear that the population "can rest assured because there are no indications that lead us to think there will be attacks" by pro-Iraqi sectors. [passage omitted]

Menem Comments on Cabinet Changes, Swift Case

PY1801034491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (NA)—President Carlos Menem said he made changes in his cabinet "to continue with his task of deepening the transformation process, which is really spectacular." He stressed that his brother-in-law, Emir Yoma, "is incapable" of asking for a "tip." Regarding a charge of bribery from the Swift-Armour

company, he said: "Only we Argentines can cause such a scandal. In an interview published in the latest issue of the magazine GENTE, Menem pointed out that he will not allow "anybody to undermine the morality and honesty" of former Ministers Jose Roberto Dromi, Alberto Kohan, Jorge Triaca, and Humberto Romero. Menem said he made the decision to replace the four ministers because "those people have already fulfilled a stage" in an official post. He immediately praised the tasks performed by the former ministers. Menem said: "Dromi was an excellent minister who was appointed Argentine Ambassador to Spain, and Kohan is an extraordinary politician and a great friend; not to mention Triaca, who worked tirelessly at the Labor Ministry, and Romero, who is a humble, capable, and sincere person."

Menem denied that the changes had to do with the famous Swift case, which he referred to as "a small grain of sand compared to other cases that occurred in the world."

Menem said he was not angry with the U.S. Department of State when he harshly answered criticisms that were made public here, but that he merely answered them "by saying they should also care about the serious cases of corruption existing in the United States." Asked whether he was sorry about his public answer to the U.S. Government, Menem said he did not regret it and reasserted his position because he believes "it is the U.S. Department of State that made sharp remarks" because "it meddled in Argentine domestic affairs."

Regarding the huge sums of money that were reportedly requested of the U.S. enterprise to speed up steps aimed at exempting it from taxes on the purchase of machinery, Menem exclaimed: "What huge sums of money are you talking about? Swift asked for a $400,000 tax exemption."

Menem admitted that he was not aware of who made U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman's letter public. On referring to the wide coverage of the alleged case of bribery, he said: "Only we Argentines can cause a scandal for such a thing."

Menem also said he appointed Guido di Tella as defense minister because he needs a man in the country who "has talent and is an economist." He added that it is necessary "to have people who can handle economic issues" in this new stage of his administration.

Menem explained that if he had not reshuffled his cabinet this week, "we would have had very serious problems." He admitted that "the government was losing some credibility," and that "it is now recovering it."

Asked about the reason why he came out strongly in defense of Emir Yoma, President Menem said he defended him because he has known him and his family for many years, and that he knows Yoma "is incapable of doing something like that," referring to the alleged "bribe" reportedly asked of the Swift-Armour company.

* Legal Procedure To Protect Foreign Investment

91SM0139B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
2 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] Foreign investors mostly fear unstable laws and economic policies, in particular the risks that their investments will be nationalized or expropriated without proper compensation or uncertainties about the repatriation of capital and profits.

These are called political risks, in other words, risks unrelated to the normal commercial vicissitudes of a transaction, and they are perceived overseas as disincentives to investment. To lessen these risks and in response to numerous demands from the countries that invest capital, a decision has been made to enter into bilateral agreements to safeguard and promote investments.

Negotiations have been undertaken on this issue with several industrialized nations; they have already been concluded with Italy, Belgium, and the United Kingdom, and six more agreements are near completion.

Under bilateral agreements to promote and safeguard investments the signatory countries pledge not to violate certain basic legal principles: observance of contracts, respect for due legal process and prior compensation in the case of expropriation, the international validity of subrogation in the sphere of insurance and guarantees, the right to use, enjoy, and dispose of property, even to sell it off and repatriate the proceeds. In particular, the State receiving the investment pledges to refrain from adopting unjustified or discriminatory measures that may adversely affect the management of the investment.

Scope

The agreements that have been signed apply to any investment made by an individual or corporation from one State in the territory of the other.

The term "investment" is defined, for the purposes of the accord, as "any money or asset invested or reinvested in any sector of economic activity, as long as the investment has been made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State in whose territory the investment is located" (for example, movable and immovable property; shares of stock, shares in a company, and any other form of company ownership; government bonds or private securities; title to industrial or intellectual property; licenses or franchises for prospecting, cultivating, extracting, and developing natural resources).

Risks

The risks covered under the agreements are:

- a) Expropriation or nationalization;
- b) Damages owing to war, armed conflict, or riot;
- c) Restrictions on the transfer of dividends and other

income arising from an investment or on the repatriation of capital.

The transfer risk encompasses any restriction on or delay in the conversion of local currency to freely available foreign exchange or its remittance overseas, including the recipient government's refusal to process a request by the investor to transfer foreign exchange.

The transfer risk does not include the risk of currency devaluation or depreciation.

The universally established general principle is that the investor must be able to remit whatever profits he may obtain from his investment to the country of origin of the capital and to repatriate the invested capital in the event that he ceases activities or sells off his investment.

Naturally, this commitment does not preclude the exercise of the sovereign powers of each State to demand that such transfers be effected "in accordance with the procedures established" in its respective banking regulations and only after the pertinent tax-related obligations have been fulfilled.

Investment-related disputes. A controversy or dispute could arise between a State that is a party to the agreement and an investor from the other State.

The agreements that Argentina has signed provide that the dispute will be submitted to the administrative or judicial jurisdiction of the State in whose territory the investment is located. However, the parties agree that if the dispute should still exist 18 months after the national justice system has been notified of the procedure, the dispute can then be submitted for international arbitration.

Under the agreements the parties grant their prior and irrevocable consent to submit the dispute to the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (CIADI), which was created by the 1968 Washington Convention within the framework of the World Bank, or to an ad hoc arbitration panel established in accordance with the Rules of the United Nations Commission for International Business Law.

The feeling is that these bilateral accords simply reflect the economic-and financial-policy decisions that the national government has made in creating the new image that Argentina is conveying to the international community. These clear-cut laws must embody this new image if they are to fulfill some of the basic objectives for which they were enacted, such as enhancing our credibility and promoting genuinely productive investment in the country.

Bolivia

Drug Commission Belittles U.S. Aid Efforts

PY1701154591 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Wilson Lora, president of the Chamber of Deputies commission dealing with drug trafficking, has said that the United States did not fulfill its commitments regarding cooperation programs to fight drug trafficking while last year Bolivia eradicated over 7,000 hectares of coca.

The legislator said that the country has taken important steps to advance alternative development plans, and he announced that the joint congressional commission that will attend the inter-parliamentarian Andean-American meeting in La Paz on 11 and 12 January will present a study evaluating alternative development plans and coca-replacement programs.

Lora did not want to talk about the commission's position regarding the militarization of the fight against drug trafficking, but he said that "Bolivia cannot be compared with countries like Peru or Colombia where drug traffickers are involved in uncontrolled violence. Militarization is not good for the country."

Regarding the issues to be discussed at the Andean-American meeting, Lora said that delegates will discuss interdiction and drug abuse prevention.

"Andean and American legislators will analyze the issue of alternative development and what Bolivia has done in this area. They will also evaluate the U.S. participation in these programs."

According to Lora, the Bolivian Government fulfilled its commitments regarding alternative development program. Lora added that the commission is analyzing whether the United States fulfilled its commitments assumed in agreements signed on the matter.

A preliminary report says that U.S. aid "has not been positive" so far because it insisted on interdiction while neglecting aspects such as alternative development and prevention. Lara said that U.S. cooperation in these two areas "must be more effective."

Government Abolishes 20 Undersecretariats

PY1601183091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Through Decree No. 22709, the executive branch today abolished 20 undersecretariats, within the framework of the presidential plan to reduce by at least 20 the total of 57 undersecretariats existing today. This move is part of an effort to reduce public expenditures and to rationalize and modernize the state apparatus. This report was released during a news conference by Minster of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The president of the Republic signed Decree No. 22709 of 14 January 1991, by which 20 undersecretariats under various ministries are abolished.

Those abolished within the Foreign Ministry are the Undersecretariats for Bilateral Policy, for Multilateral Policy, and for Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Social Reinstatement.

The Interior Ministry Undersecretariat for Migration has been abolished. The Presidency Ministry's Undersecretariats for Congress and Administrative Affairs have been abolished.

Three Planning Ministry undersecretariats were abolished: the Undersecretariats for Legal and Administrative Affairs, for Social Policy, and for Regional Affairs and Decentralization.

Three Finance Ministry undersecretariats were also abolished: the Undersecretariats for Financial Management, Revenue, and General Accounting.

The following Education Ministry undersecretariats were abolished: the Undersecretariats for Education Coordination and for Administration.

From the Transport and Communictions Ministry, the Undersecretariat for Transport Planning was abolished. From the Industry Ministry, the Undersecretariats for Domestic Commerce and for Coordination were abolished.

From the Labor Ministry, the Undersecretariat for Labor Development was abolished. From the Mining Ministry, the Undersecretariat for Coordination was abolished. In addition, the Undersecretariat for Natural and Renewable Resources and Environment was abolished from the Campesino Affairs Ministry.

These are the 20 undersecretariats that were abolished.

Article 2 of the decree includes the description of the restructuring plan of the undersecretariats as of the date of this decree. There are a total of 37 undersecretariats, and no ministry has more than three. Only the Foreign, Interior, Defense, and Finance Ministries have three undersecretariats. All other ministries have either one or two undersecretariats. The Ministry Without Portfolio has no undersecretariat.

This is the new structure now approved and implemented by the signature of the president of the Republic and of the ministers. [end recording]

Paz Zamora Creates Secretariat for Environment

PY1701030091 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Summary] Presidency Minister Gustavo Fernandez has announced that, on orders from President Jaime Paz Zamora, a Secretariat General for the Environment has been created. The secretariat will be directly under the Presidency of the Republic and will be responsible for drafting sector policies.

Government Signs Contract for Agricultural Aid

PY1601233491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2314 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Summary] Franz Ondarza Linares, Bolivian ambassador to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has signed a contract with IFAD chairman Idris Jazairy for $12 million to be used in a project to develop and consolidate small farming colonies in the Santa Cruz department. The overall project calls for $16.7 million in investment. OPEC and the UN Development Fund for Women will contribute the remaining $4.7 million.

* National Oil Production Statistics Listed

91SM0143D La Paz HOY in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] The Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) produces an average of 16,700 barrels per day of petroleum and condensate, while the companies that have contracts to operate in the country produce 3,800 barrels per day. These figures come from a report released by the YPFB planning office.

The data released to the media by the state company indicate that as of 31 October, production of petroleum and condensate totaled 5,079,990 barrels. Since the initial months of the current fiscal year, production has gradually increased in volume.

In January, according to the statistical report, YPFB achieved a total volume of 479,383 barrels of petroleum; this figure rose to 500,249 barrels in June, and to 534,257 barrels in July.

In August production surged to 568,014 barrels, then dropped to 564,794 barrels in September. It rose once again in October to 571,648 barrels, adds the technical report provided by YPFB.

The petroleum and condensate production figures, according to YPFB's statistical tables, indicate that the company's average daily production of petroleum and condensate is 16,710 barrels, while contractors account for an average of 3,881 barrels per day.

The national total is 20,591 barrels, which includes the production of YPFB and contractors: Occidental, Tesoro, Sol Petroleo, and Perez Combag, says the report.

Fields

The La Pena oilfield, which is operated under the direction of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, yielded the highest production volumes as of last October, with 1,310,581 barrels. Its production peak came in that same month, with 145,709 barrels.

The Vuelta Grande field, in the department of Chuquisaca, achieved a total production volume of 848,035 barrels for the year. Its monthly quotas dropped, however, from 91,159 barrels in January to 84,532 barrels in June and 80,843 barrels in October.

According to the YPFB technical report, one oilfield that has increased its production considerably this fiscal year is San Roque, where production climbed from 60,533 barrels in January to 75,279 barrels in June, and 101,704 barrels in October.

* Comibol Deficit Totals $3.5 Million

91SM0143C La Paz HOY in Spanish 7 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] The Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) is undergoing a severe crisis. Thus far it has accumulated a deficit of $3.5 million, stated Minister of Mining and Metallurgy Walter Soriano Lea Plaza.

According to a report released by the Government Palace, the mining minister stated that the executive branch is studying measures of a political, technical, and economic nature designed to overcome the state enterprise's deficit.

The crisis, he explained, stems from a number of factors. The primary element affecting the operations of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia is the low price of minerals on the international market.

Because of the aforementioned circumstances, financing must be obtained immediately from either national or foreign sources. This will enable the corporation to improve the indices of production, expand employment, and raise the level of pay within the corporation.

At present, said Minister Soriano Lea Plaza, due to the lack of capital it is impossible to develop profitable industrial operations in the mining sector because machinery and modern technology cannot be brought in.

The most obvious possibility for attracting investment is to sign shared risk contracts. COMIBOL cannot turn to commercial banks for credit because that involves the payment of interest and other obligations that it is not in a position to meet.

Deficit

As for the deficit that the state enterprise faces now, Soriano indicated that it totals $3.5 million. Nevertheless, this situation could be turned around easily if capital infusions could be obtained to reorganize COMIBOL.

Later on Minister Soriano indicated that although COMIBOL is running a deficit in its operations, it is not repeating the situation of the past when heavy losses undermined the company's economic situation.

In conclusion, he stated that to overcome COMIBOL's deficit, the government is studying political, economic, and technical measures, although it is imperative that new capital infusions be sought in the future by means of shared risk contracts.

* Exports Generate $672 Million in Nine Months

91SM0143B La Paz HOY in Spanish 1 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] During nine months of this fiscal year, Bolivia exported $672.7 million worth of goods. The member states of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) accounted for the majority of the sales.

The second most important market for Bolivian foreign trade is the European Economic Community, with $201 million worth, according to the latest bulletin issued by the external sector of the Central Bank of Bolivia.

Overall exports include both traditional and nontraditional goods and sales of both the private and public sectors, according to the report on foreign trade.

In addition, imports totaled $499.1 million as of 30 September. Most of the purchases were made in the United States, followed by the ALADI market.

The public sector's exports amounted to $281.1 million, while those of the private sector totaled $421.8 million. This means that private businessmen have more initiative than the state sector.

Broken down by product, the exports of the mining sector show the highest total, $299.333 million. Zinc was the most heavily traded metal on the world market, with a total of $107.721 million.

The second most important export group is nontraditional goods, which amounted to $203.305 million. Soybeans is the top product in this category.

Finally, hydrocarbons exports netted the country $170.065 million. Sales of natural gas to Argentina totaled $168.947 million.

Brazil

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Outbreak of Gulf War

Collor Calls For Cooperation

PY1701132691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1138 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Speech to the cabinet by President Fernando Collor de Mello at the Government Palace in Brasilia—live]

[Text] To conclude our meeting, I would like to acknowledge the presence of Senator Nelson Carneiro, president of Congress; Deputy Inosencio de Oliveira, acting president of the Chamber of Deputies; government leaders from the two legislative houses; and party leaders.

I also want to thank all Brazilian society for its cooperation at this crucial moment we are experiencing and will continue to experience. As I said before, the situation is serious, extremely serious, and only with a spirit of solidarity in our actions will we be able to overcome, without greater difficulty, these difficult moments we are going through.

Society must participate in this process with solidarity. The federal government cannot and must not do everything. In a government such as ours, an eminently democratic government with respect for democratic

principles, it is essential to have this association of national interests with the common objectives of the entire Brazilian nation.

For this reason, I am once again addressing all those wanting to participate with us in this effort, to avoid consuming fuel unnecessarily and to avoid hoarding flammable products.

As the infrastructure minister said: Hoarding, in addition to undermining the superior interests of the Brazilian nation, undermines the security of those who engage in these actions and the security of their families.

We must know how to behave with the responsibility required by the situation. I am certain that this spirit of cooperation will be reflected in the daily activities of each Brazilian citizen.

Cooperation and a clear understanding of the situation by the Republic's institutions are factors that will allow us to positively overcome these difficulties. The conditions exist to overcome this situation in Brazil with no major concern for the future.

I want to acknowledge once again the presence of the presidents of the National Congress and the Chamber of Deputies and of party leaders. I also want to thank Brazilian society for their cooperation and collaboration at this moment which, I repeat, is extremely serious for the international order and for all countries on earth, especially our Brazil. A very good day to you, and thank you all very much.

Rezek on Possible Consequences

PY1701201291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1106 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Speech to the cabinet by Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek at Government Palace in Brasilia—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...willing to go to the aid of Kuwait to restore its territorial sovereignty. To do so, it asked others for the necessary support for that initiative, considering its legal nature.

It was at that moment, Mr. President, that Brazil, through its government, consolidated the conviction that had been known from the moment the first troops began arriving in Saudi Arabia to defend it from a possible invasion by Iraqi forces.

The Brazilian Government is able to consolidate its conviction because there are no geopolitical reasons for us to identify with the countries that—motivated by their geopolitical situation and circumstances—have taken noncompulsory initiatives to physically implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

Mr. President, I think all Brazilian society and all voices in the National Congress have always expressed their perfect understanding of the spontaneous, natural, and correct nature of that initiative.

Unlike many other countries and many democracies from the northern and southern hemispheres, we are not encountering internal political agitation due to disagreements between Congress and the government, between important sectors of Congress and of the government, or between important sectors of public opinion and the government. We are not experiencing any disagreement in this respect due to government action in the conflict.

Meanwhile, within the Brazilian Government, specialized sectors have been careful to plan as completely as possible everything that needed to be foreseen and that could occur in case we have to react to economic consequences that could result from a possible conflict.

There not being any reason for greater consumption of essential energy sources within the government in terms of political analysis of the crisis, and there not being any reason for revision of these positions, it was imperative to only imagine that the consequences of the increase in petroleum prices could get worse if the crisis led to a real armed confrontation. We should thus be absolutely prepared and have everything at hand when necessary.

Mr. President, at all times we have been among those governments that in their international speeches and their international stands, have been firmly trying to make people not view war as something routine, something normal, or something that somehow could still be a valid option at the end of the 20th century or an option like others for the solution of conflicts. Any statements made by the Brazilian Government since the beginning of the crisis have expressed our firm conviction that armed conflict is something that should be avoided by all means accepted by the parties involved.

We have also maintained a climate of conviction in which, despite all growing evidence, some hope prevailed. The exact moment in which this hope experienced a sudden, major drop, Mr. President, was not when Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met given the circumstances under which their meeting took place—Baker's proposal and Iraq's probable unwillingness to talk precisely because his interlocutor was a national government representative, a U.S. Government representative.

We had strong hopes for Perez de Cuellar's mission. In this case he was representing an organization, was an accredited diplomat born in a country from our continent, and was willing to make proposals. Even though he was not very clear about the details of what he was going to propose while on his way from his headquarters in New York to Baghdad, we all knew that there existed a comprehensive project on subjects that included what seemed to be the most serious and persuasive aspiration—the opportune solution of Mideast problems. It is a fact that no one has forgotten the existence of conflicts that cannot be on the conscience of the international community forever.

It is not that Perez de Cuellar would adopt the linkage [preceding word in English]. Under your guidance, Mr. President, we have repudiated it ourselves given the fact

that it cannot be said that the military occupation of a foreign territory and a pretended annexation are appropriate methods for someone to try to solve a pending international conflict.

Linkage was not an acceptable proposal. A withdrawal from Kuwait was not conditioned to the solution of other Mideast problems, especially the Palestine problem, but there was no doubt whatsoever about Brazilian support for a review of the Palestinia issue as soon as possible.

To our deepest regret, Mr. President, Secretary General Perez de Cuellar returned from Baghdad fearing that his arguments had not been convincing and regretting very much that the local officials seemed to have abandoned or at least, no longer gave any priority to Middle East problems and the pending Palestinian issue. They firmly centered their priorities on the intermediate argument of historical sovereignty over Kuwaiti territory, on Iraqi territorial unity, on the 19th province that was again submitted to Iraqi domination, and on the fact that it should remain so at any price because Iraqi troops would not leave it. It was in this atmosphere that Perez de Cuellar returned to New York and reported that there was little reason to hope for a peaceful solution of the conflict.

Up to the very last moment before the beginning of combat last night, the Brazilian Government hoped for a peaceful solution to the conflict for many reasons. Brazil hoped for peace not only to defend its principles, but also to defend certain immediate interests. We foresaw the economic consequences that the armed conflict would have for us, its possible discouraging duration, the number of people that might be killed, and the geopolitical aspect the region might have at the end of the conflict. We were also concerned about who would hold international power after the conclusion of hostilities. We believe that society in the 21st century must be as egalitarian and linear as possible. In that century there must be no more bipolarization, sovereign equality must prevail, and conflicts must be solved within the UN framework.

Considering last night's events, it has become clear that the diplomatic mechanisms of the parties directly involved in the conflict were not sufficient to prevent the armed conflict. It must be pointed out that Brazil maintains the same position it adopted at the beginning of August, which was the result of an appropriate, detailed analysis.

Brazil still believes there were no reasons to send fighting troops to the region; it is, however, still at the disposal of the United Nations—as Secretary General Perez de Cuellar well knows—and ready to contribute peace forces and neutral and military observers. Within our economic limitations and under the rules of the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross system, we are always ready to help the United Nations. I believe Mr. Perez de Cuellar realizes that the United Nations can count on help from countries such as Brazil, which remain faithful in a crisis to the laws and the organization's principles while analyzing—in a dignified, prudent, correct, and neutral manner—the various aspects of such a complex problem as that of the Middle East. It is from countries such as Brazil that the United Nations expects substantial help in this last stage of the crisis, although the exact extent of this help is still impossible to know. Mr. President, we have informed the United Nations that you have instructed us to do this, and that Brazil and we ourselves will not fail to comply with these instructions.

From the point of view of international relations, Mr. President, our main concern is the geopolitical stability of the Persian Gulf region and of the Middle East as a whole. We hope that all difficulties will be solved as soon as possible. We also hope that the UN will be the real winner in this conflict and that it truly becomes a prestigious forum where international political conflicts are solved under the light of laws.

We are convinced that the fact that the war has started does not prove it will last forever. Every 24 hours, there are new possibilities for resuming negotiations. The military aspects of an armed conflict can teach daily lessons and these lessons can be used every night for a political reevaluation of the situation and for a relentless search for ways to cease the firing. This is the objective we have been firmly pursuing.

I now feel that I have complied with the difficult task you gave me and that I have given, for the sake of the honorable congressmen attending this meeting, a brief wrap-up of the Brazilian position on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Silva Outlines Emergency Plan

PY1701224091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1119 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Speech to the cabinet by Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva at Government Palace in Brasilia—live]

[Text] Mr. President, president of the federal Senate, acting president of the Chamber of Deputies, congressmen, ministers of state, and secretaries of state:

As soon as the crisis in the Middle East began, the president instructed us to assess the possible difficulties our country could encounter in the oil supply field. We are aware that 40 percent of Brazil's oil supply is imported. Therefore, the national economy cannot do without a normal, sufficient flow of oil and oil by-products, which are refined in our country.

We carried out preliminary studies with various government institutions; we drew up several measures, which were implemented approximately three months ago; and we then closely followed the behavior of oil prices in relation to every political, diplomatic, or military movement that took place in the Gulf region. With this information we were able to make estimates based on highly probable theories about the outbreak of war. These studies were intensified as the fateful UN deadline

for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait drew closer and, under these circumstances, we drew up a package of measures that we submitted for your approval, Mr. President, during our meeting on 8 January. Today we are in a position to disclose these detailed measures, which will be implemented by Brazilian society.

These measures entail a series of acts that involve the participation of the National Congress, the executive branch as a whole, the entire national fuel distribution and supply system, and, without a doubt, the great, necessary, and desired participation of the Brazilian consumers who, aware of the crisis the world is experiencing, will undoubtedly cooperate by restricting fuel consumption.

Following your instructions, Your Excellency, at no time did we contemplate the possibility of a compulsory rationing of fuel. We are not aware of a practical means to prevent natural distortions in the market. Moreover, it would be a measure showing a great lack of respect for Brazilian society, which, we are certain, will respond positively to our appeal, on one hand, in establishing basic guidelines for an emergency program for fuel consumption rationalization and, on the other hand, in implementing some supervision measures, which are necessary to control fuel production and distribution.

As a result, Mr. President, we have brought some proposals for your formal approval. The first one entails a message to Congress proposing a draft bill that defines crimes against the national fuel supply and the national patrimony, and other recommendations. The main purpose of this draft bill is to provide the government with the necessary tools to exercise this indispensable control. It is a proposal of great importance that we are now submitting for your approval.

Next, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, we wish to present a draft decree implementing an emergency program for fuel consumption rationalization and other measures. This decree will implement a program designed to promote, coordinate, and develop emergency actions envisaging the restriction and rationalization of the production, imports, exports, transportation, distribution, marketing, and use of oil, shale oil, respective by-products, natural gas and its by-products, dehydrated alcohol, liquid fuel from renewable resources, and other fuels and energy sources in the country.

At the same time, it creates a commission in charge of supervising implementation of the emergency program for fuel consumption rationalization. The purpose of this commission is to safeguard efficient implementation of the program and other measures contained in this decree.

Through these legal tools, Mr. President, we are implementing a series of comprehensive measures that will be contained in various interministerial resolutions of the infrastructure and national fuel departments.

For the information of Your Excellency, other meeting participants, and the country's population, I will summarize the measures that will be made public in the DIARIO OFICIAL beginning today.

The first measure establishes quotas for supplying fuel to the market at percentages to be fixed by the commission charged with implementation of the program. We are also establishing quotas for the consumption of some products for industrial use, such as naphtha, at percentages that will also be fixed by the commission. We reduced the amount of liquefied petroleum gas [LPG] in kitchen gas bottles; the small ones have been reduced from 13 to 10 kg, the medium-size bottles from 45 to 36 kg, and the large ones from 90 to 72 kg. We are seeking to limit the sale of kitchen gas to one bottle per consumer. We set a new schedule for the operation of sales points, which will be open from 0600 to 2000 and closed at night and on Sundays and holidays.

Based on legislation, Mr. President, we spelled out what will be viewed as noncompliance with the rules of the National Fuel Supply System, particularly the illegal acquisition, distribution, and resale of fuel alcohol, and the improper utilization of LPG. These rules will be enforced, Mr. President, because LPG is being used improperly in vehicles and heating systems that are not authorized by current legislation.

In the transportation sector, we will seek to encourage car pools, and we will study implementation of taxi cab pools and microbus services in urban areas with low population densities. We elevated the seat occupancy index in interurban buses to 85 percent. We will study the suspension of railroad services on low-efficiency lines, and the suspension of commuter and metropolitan railroad services on lines where fuel consumption per capita is higher than in buses. Encouragement will be provided for the use of freight and transportation pools; schedules for loading and unloading in large cities will be restricted and controlled; and traffic control will be intensified as far as speed, maximum load, and engine tune-ups are concerned.

Diesel and fuel oil-generated electricity will be reduced. We have established guidelines for control activities through joint action by the National Fuel Department, National Highway Department, Federal Police, and Federal Highway Police. We will also seek the support of state control and police sectors to repress illegal fuel trade in the country, particularly in areas with high per capita consumption of some fuels, especially LPG. I am referring, Mr. President, to the states of Goias and Tocantins. At this point, I ask the people to help us so we can be successful in this crusade getting under way today.

The federal government, through its organs and agencies, will provide technical assistance to states and municipalities to ensure implementation of the program throughout the national territory, and will adopt measures to support state and municipal governments in the implementation of these measures. Finally, we will launch a public campaign for the rational use of energy.

This is a message to the public, Mr. President, saying that the government is prepared. The government has made preparations and has measures in place.

In the area of supplies, we currently have the largest stock of oil that we have ever had. Petrobras today has 42 million barrels of oil that can be processed, providing us with a tranquil future supply. Still, we are taking precautions through measures to regulate supply to the local market and stimulate the reduction of demand. The reserves definitely guarantee market supplies under the quota rules we have established until the end of April. So, there is no reason for people to stockpile fuel in their residences. This implies risk; please do not do it. There is no reason to privately stockpile fuel.

We have a commission that will be alert. At this very moment. this commission is meeting at the Infrastructure Ministry, and as soon as these measures are approved by Your Excellency, the commission will implement them. These measures will not cause any particular difficulty. The population is expected to cooperate, and we are sure we will be able to execute this program in a smooth, adequate manner, responding to the interests of the people and the country's production system.

Mr. President, I have here the original copies that should be signed by the ministers, but I propose that they do so later, in order not to take more time, unless Your Excellency thinks otherwise.

Saudi Envoy Reports Threats; Security Tightened

PY1701160691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Saudi Ambassador (Al-Gais) has received several death threats over the phone and has requested that police protection at his embassy in Brasilia be strengthened following the air attack on Baghdad.

The Barao do Rio Branco squad, which is responsible for protecting diplomats and international organizations, honored the request and sent another 70 men to guard the Saudi Embassy and four other embassies of countries directly involved in the conflict: the United States, Kuwait, Iraq, and Israel.

Police Leave Suspended; Airport Controls Rise

PY1801031691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The luggage of airline passengers who arrive and leave the country will be checked more carefully. This decision—which was announced today Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma—is one of the measures adopted by the government to prevent possible terrorist actions that have been announced by Iraq.

At the request of the Justice Ministry, Federal Police suspended leaves for its regional superintendents, who will discuss implementation of a special supervision scheme at airports, particularly at international airports, with Air Force representatives in the various Brazilian states

The Federal Police superintendents will also draft a joint action plan with the state governors and request the cooperation of the civil and military police to control the irregular sale of fuel. Border control will also be intensified.

Television Agency Receives False Bomb Threat

PY1701174491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1716 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Jan (EFE)—A bomb threat against the VisNews television information agency has caused the evacuation of a 22-floor building in downtown Rio de Janeiro where the EFE and REUTER news agencies also have their offices.

An anonymous telephone call announced that an explosion would occur today at 1400 (1600 GMT). When police arrived on the premises, however, no bomb was found, and business returned to normal.

Supreme Court Deems Measure on Salaries Illegal

PY1701025291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Federal Supreme Court (STF) Judge Sepulveda Pertence has declared unconstitutional Provisional Measure 292, which regulates the salary policy. In the judgment dictated at the request of the Brazilian Lawyers Association, the STF declared unconstitutional the part of the provisional measure that establishes that salaries should be freely negotiated. Judge Sepulveda Pertence did not modify the articles in which the government grants bonuses to workers.

Congress will discuss and vote on Provisional Measure 292 as a draft bill next week.

Chile

Government Reaffirms Demand for Iraqi Withdrawal

PY1701173091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Daniela Arameda report from the Foreign Ministry in Santiago]

[Text] The Chilean Government has reiterated its desire for the Iraqi regime to immediately end its illegal occupation of Kuwait as the only way to stop the confrontation that is currently taking place.

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma read a Foreign Ministry declaration which reaffirms the government's position that diplomatic channels are still valid in helping to seek peace. The statement also says the government will increase its efforts, together with those

of the UN, to promote initiatives that will lead to the reestablishment of internal law and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The government also reiterates its condemnation of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops, an action that violates the principles of international law; repudiates this continuing attitude, and urges that the sovereignty, independence, and dignity of Kuwait be restored.

Group Threatens 15 U.S. Targets; Security Rises

PY1801023491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The chief of the Carabineros Metropolitan Zone reported today that he ordered special police protection for embassies, residences, and installations of representative organizations for the countries involved in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The measure is aimed at preventing possible attacks against diplomatic missions for those countries in Chile. Therefore, Carabineros special forces and radio patrol units have increased their protection since early this morning. The threats by the so-called Anti-Imperialist Revolutionary Front threatening to carry out about 15 attacks against U.S. installations in Chile have caused special concern. [passage omitted]

Churches Bombed, Heavily Damaged

PY1701192291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, 17 Jan (EFE)—Bomb explosions caused heavy damage at two Mormon churches today. A group that was unknown up to now has been threatening to carry out attacks against U.S. interests in Chile since the military offensive against Iraq in the Persian Gulf began.

Police sources indicated that the Mormon church in Vina del Mar, 125 km northwest of Santiago, was half destroyed by a fire bomb and another Mormon church in La Serena, 471 km north of Santiago, suffered heavy damage from another explosion.

The police reported that so far no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the so-called Anti-Imperialist Revolutionary Front [Frente Revolucionario Antimperialista] said it will carry out selective attacks against U.S. targets in Chile if the allied forces do not stop the attack against Iraq immediately.

In telephone calls to the local media, individuals who identified themselves as members of that group said: "We already have 15 targets in Chile." They also said that if the war continues, "we will continue the action against those targets."

2 U.S. Bank Branches Bombed

PY1801141291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Santiago, 18 Jan (AFP-NA)—Chilean police have reported that the branches of two U.S. banks, the Security Pacific and Republic National, were damaged early this morning by dynamite charges that had been placed by unknown persons.

Windows were destroyed and furniture was damaged, but no one was injured.

The explosive devices, which contained TNT, exploded at 0030 (0330 GMT).

The offices that were attacked, apparently as a reaction to U.S. presence in the Middle East, are located on an avenue in the district of Providencia, in eastern Santiago. [passage omitted]

Antiwar Demonstration Held at U.S. Consulate

PY1801012491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Another demonstration against the Persian Gulf war was staged this afternoon in Santiago. The demonstrators, who were mostly young people, gathered at the Plaza Italia after 1700 and then marched to the U.S. Consulate to protest the Persian Gulf war.

The demonstration was peaceful. There were shouts and placards, and some Communist Party of Chile leaflets demanding that the war be ended immediately were distributed.

Carabineros personnel took preventive measures to avoid outbursts.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The demonstration was called at 1900 at the Plaza Italia by the Youth Movement for Peace. All social organizations and organized Chilean youth groups are participating here. We are primarily endorsing the call by His Holiness John Paul II. We believe a military solution to the Middle East conflict will not benefit the rest of the world, and we urge everyone to search for a peaceful solution. [end recording]

The demonstrators ended the rally by singing the national anthem and then leaving the area peacefully.

Youth Movement for Peace representatives announced that they will hold a rally at noon tomorrow at the Plaza de Armas, outside the cathedral, to stage another demonstration against the Persian Gulf war.

Communist Party Calls For UN Meeting on War

PY1801024891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Today the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to stop the aggression in the Persian Gulf. This

announcement was made by Gladys Marin, PCCh political committee member, who said it is necessary to institute an immediate cease-fire and start international negotiations to discuss all Middle East problems, including the Kuwaiti people's self-determination.

[Begin Marin recording] The U.S. Government wants to assume the role of global policeman in order to impose its ideas by force and to defend its interests with weapons. This is the new international order the U.S. Government wants to impose. The negative changes in the world, the balance of power at the international level, and the Soviet Union's weakened position have aided U.S. aggression. [end recording]

Gladys Marin also said that the PCCh calls on all organizations to act to stop this situation. She added that the government has an obligation to take steps to contribute to this objective. She explained that the cruel U.S. behavior and the seriousness of the situation demand a moral commitment to make every effort for peace to prevail among people.

Ecuador

Nation To Propose Troop Withdrawal From Gulf

PA1701195491 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1903 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Quito, 17 Jan (DPA)—Ecuador announced today it will ask the UN Security Council to call for the withdrawal of military forces from the Persian Gulf, under international supervision, after Iraqi troops leave Kuwait.

"If Saddam Husayn formally and seriously announces that, in accordance with the UN Security Council, he is withdrawing his troops from Kuwait, the hostilities could end immediately, and after that, all forces could be withdrawn from the zone under UN supervision," Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez remarked.

"Saddam Husayn must take the first step," he added in a statement to the press which outlines the Ecuadoran position on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Cordovez reiterated that Ecuador supports all resolutions of the UN Security Council "that are aimed at ensuring the enforcement of the law." He also announced his country's intention to support "every effort undertaken to solve the conflict" by the Security Council.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister on Gulf War, Possible Effects

PY1701141091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 10

[Text] Asked for his opinion just after the Gulf war started, Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said: "Paraguay's position has already been made known through its representative at the UN. We have called for a peaceful solution, but this could not be achieved because of a series of events. The UN condemned the aggression and established a deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Paraguay, as a UN member, supported that decision."

Frutos Vaesken regretted the development of this conflict, the loss of lives, and the material consequences that will unavoidably result from the war. He indicated the need to use all resources to seek a peaceful solution to conflicts and to fundamentally avoid the situations that lead to them.

"Above all," he continued, "we lament that this is happening at such an exceptional time, as the world was experiencing a state of peace, rapprochement, and the disappearance of the cold war."

The foreign minister explained that the Venezuelan foreign minister, who is currently coordinating the Rio Group, had made a proposal to call a meeting of the region's foreign ministers if war was declared in the Gulf and for the meeting to be held very quickly to evaluate measures to be adopted at the regional level.

He then referred to the repercussions that the conflict could cause in our country. "There is no measure that we must urgently adopt," he said. He explained that the economy does not depend very much on what happens in the war zone and that Argentina's offer of oil and by-products has had a calming effect, encouraging tranquillity at such a trying time for the world.

Minister Souto: U.S. 'Obliged' To Act in Gulf

PY1701141491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 11

[Text] Defense Minister Angel Juan Souto Hernandez said last night that "we hope there is a quick resolution and that the consequences for our country are minimal, although as soon as the seriousness of the situation became clear the speculators in our country began to go to work."

"I am very sorry about what is happening. I sincerely did not expect that war would begin so quickly, but everything has been said," the minister added. "Let us hope that this is resolved as soon as possible and that Husayn comes to his senses."

Souto Hernandez then expressed his concern about the ecological changes that could occur due to the use of powerful chemical weapons. He also indicated that no one knows whether Iraq has nuclear weapons. "Due to all of this, this is a worrisome factor," he stressed.

He then said: "The United States was obliged to take action in this case and it is hoped that, with the short truce that has been offered [as published], the president of Iraq will review his position to avoid what could be a disaster."

Foreign Minister Says Embassy Security Increased

PY1701163691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 13

[Text] According to information released on 16 January by Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, the government has ordered regular security measures in the country to be increased, especially around the embassies of countries with diplomats in Paraguay, in light of the fact that the embassies might be targets of terrorist attacks.

The foreign minister told the media that, due to the Persian Gulf problem, "there are threats of terrorist action throughout the world and that type of action can be carried out against foreign embassies. The government has therefore ordered the reinforcement of existing security measures to prevent and avoid any type of action."

From what the foreign minister has said, the controls should be extended to other areas considered vital to the country to guarantee adequate protection.

Frutos Vaesken also confirmed that he has requested that the decree approving his vacation be annulled. "It is appropriate that I remain in the Foreign Ministry at this time, because there may be calls for meetings and consultations and I have to be at my desk," he stressed.

Workers Party Claims 'Genocidal' U.S. Attack

PY1701172491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 10

[Text] "Several months after criminally imposing an economic and military blockade of the Iraqi nation, the imperialist beast, supported by the Governments of England, France, Spain, and the decadent Soviet bureaucracy, has finally unleashed its genocidal attack against the Iraqi people, who have started to resist heroically. This just shows how far imperialism will go in its urge for hegemony, and that when it is a question of defending the control of strategic zones, such as the oil-rich zones of the Middle East, the wonderful speeches on democracy and human rights are pushed to one side and imperialism does not hesitate to try and exterminate those who oppose its domination."

This communique was released last night by the Worker's Party [PT] after the U.S. attack against Iraq had begun.

The communique states: "As revolutionary socialists, as anti-imperialist fighters, we unconditionally support the people of Iraq, and we are against imperialism and its current chief."

The document further states: "This support for the Iraqi people and Arab nations does not now represent, nor will it ever represent, political support for Saddam Husayn, because he does not merit any confidence at all, as is the case with any bourgeois chief of state."

The PT has called on all working, popular, and anti-imperialist organizations to demonstrate against "the brutal Yankee aggression" today at 1930 in front of the U.S. Embassy in our country. The PT urges citizens to raise "banners proclaiming 'No to the war against Iraq' and 'Get out of the Gulf, Yankee assassins.'"

Christian Democratic Party Elects New President

PY1501142491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Jan 91 p 19

[Summary] Angel Jose Burro has been elected new president of the Christian Democratic Party for a two-year term. Burro was elected by 70 percent of the voters during the internal elections held on 13 January 1991.

Peru

Embassy Surveillance Doubled; Terrorists Alleged

PY1701200691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1910 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 17 Jan (AFP-NA)—It has been observed in this capital today that approximately 5,000 policemen doubled the surveillance of allied countries' embassies in Lima following the beginning of hostilities in the Persian Gulf on 16 January.

The National Police have declared a state of "total alert" following intelligence service reports on the possible infiltration of Arab and Libyan terrorists who intend to unleash, in alliance with Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas, attacks on foreign properties and individuals.

Peruvian officials are also considering activation of the Navy and the Army—which are already patrolling some streets—to safeguard important foreign missions. The missions that are being guarded are those of the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, and France.

Meanwhile, Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] has implemented an emergency plan to maintain a normal fuel supply given that oil workers began a 48-hour strike on the same day that the Persian Gulf war broke out.

Uruguay

Special Cabinet Meeting Held To Analyze War

PY1701152091 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In the past few hours President Luis Alberto Lacalle has announced a dialogue (?in talks with) El Espectador. He said a special cabinet committee will meet this morning to evaluate events in the Persian Gulf.

The mini-cabinet, as it has been called, is made up of President Lacalle, Senate Defense Minister Luis Loreto [name and title as heard], Interior Minister Juan Andres

Ramirez, Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, and Secretary of the Presidency Pablo Garcia Pinto.

President Lacalle said that war has been declared and that Uruguay maintains its solidarity with the UN.

Police sources have reported that shortly after the attack on Baghdad, the Interior Ministry ordered a reinforcement of surveillance at the U.S., Israeli, and other diplomatic missions linked to the conflict. Discreet surveillance of stores owned by Israeli citizens, or others whose countries are linked to the conflict, has also been ordered to prevent any possible attacks.

The Uruguayan Government had also announced a series of preventive measures in view of this situation. We could not see reinforced security measures during a patrol carried out in Montevideo in the past few hours, but the sources said the surveillance is very discreet.

Legislative Committee Issues Gulf Declaration

PY1701155491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] The Legislative Branch Permanent Committee has unanimously approved a declaration demanding peace in the Persian Gulf. This initiative was proposed by National Rocha Movement Senator Manuel Singlet.

The text of the declaration [word indistinct]:

1. I voice the hope that the conflict in the Persian Gulf can be peacefully solved.

2. Such a solution should be placed within the framework of respect for law and the will of the international (?community) as expressed through the appropriate UN decisions.

Lacalle, Collor To Meet, Discuss Ties 15 Mar

PY1801150091 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] It has been confirmed that Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor de Mello will meet on 15 March in the border area between Artigas and Quarai, at the [word indistinct] international of La Concordia.

They will analyze the implementation of the integration process for the creation of the Southern Cone common market, made up of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay. They will also discuss, within the framework of bilateral relations, matters related to the border committee and the free transit of goods across the international bridge.

Venezuela

Government To Request UN Meeting on Gulf War

PA1701193891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1849 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (EFE)—Venezuela will request a special UN General Assembly meeting to seek a solution to the Persian Gulf conflict, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo has told EFE.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said that following the breaking out of the war, we hope that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait and comply with all UN decisions.

Without mentioning dates, Figueredo said the Venezuelan Government will make the necesssary contacts to promote such a meeting in the UN to review all the problems of the Arab world.

Venezuela supports all the decisions made by the United Nations, and the attack on Iraq by the United States and the allied countries does not violate international law, the foreign minister said.

Figueredo refused to say if Venezuela will ask for a meeting immediately or once the armed conflict in the Middle East is over.

The foreign minister added that the Venezuelan Government is watching the events unfold in the region because his country cooperated as much as possible to avoid the war.

The head of Venezuelan diplomacy said that things in that region (Middle East) are not going to be resolved with military conflict.

Figueredo indicated that he met today with the Iraqi Ambassador to Venezuela, Majid Al-Samairra'i to inform him that the Venezuelan Government would guarantee his personal security in the country.

Perez Expresses Gulf Support in National Address

PA1701175891 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1616 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez to the nation on 17 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] For us, the occupation of a country by force, the annulment of borders and annexation of a country recognized by all nations is unacceptable, in principle, and also in defense of our own nation. Nor do we believe that any nation has the right to make itself the policemen of the world and to make decisions on its own.

We are, however, in the face of a historic fact of extraordinary significance. The UN, to which all nations of the world belong, made the decision and established a deadline which the Iraqi Government was to obey—the order of the world—and withdraw from Iraq [corrects himself]...Kuwait, in return the UN guaranteed its safety and all the rights as a sovereign nation.

Therefore, today we must support the 28 nations that are operating in the mideast to restore peace in the region and so that the existing borders will be maintained in accordance with international law. We hope the confrontation will be brief. The shorter the better. We will continue to insist on peace. We will ask the Iraqi Government to accept the UN decision and the guarantees offered it by the UN.

This is our position on the conflict. I ask my fellow citizens to remain calm. This war, which hurts us and which we deeply deplore it, does not directly affect us. There is no reason to be alarmed. There is no reason to think that products will not be available. National activity will continue normally.

For several days the government has been taking the advisable measures to guarantee the security and integrity of properties that might possibly suffer some sort of attack. Several days ago we established special measures to protect the oil installations. As of tonight, these measures have been enforced and are evident to all. This is not because we have any reports of actions that might damage our installations. It is because prudence and security so demand. The Armed Forces, specifically, the National Guard, the Police Forces, and the state intelligence forces have been carrying out a permanent activity during these days to forestall any unfortunate incident that might occur.

I ask that you remain calm and confident. There is no cause to be alarmed. There is reason for us to feel distressed by this circumstance lived today by humanity.

Iraqi Envoys Says His Country Will Win War

PA1701180591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1729 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Iraqi Ambassador to Venezuela Majid al-Samairra'i said today "we will see who wins this (Persian Gulf) war because last night's battle was not decisive."

In brief remarks to the local television, the diplomat said "we are certain of victory for peace because the United States began the war, and that shows who wants peace and who wants war."

The United States, at the head of a multinational force deployed in the Persian Gulf, attacked the Iraqi capital yesterday, damaging the parliament, the airport, the presidential palace, and the national telecommunications center.

Government Guarantees Continued Oil Deliveries

PA1801021491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2039 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (EFE)—Venezuela will fulfill its pledges to supply oil to Latin American countries despite the Persian Gulf war, it was reported today by the government in Caracas.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo said that Venezuela guaranteed its Central American and Caribbean associates, and other countries which purchase its crude oil, that it will maintain normal shipments of their respective oil quotas despite the war.

Figueredo said he has received numerous calls from governments in the region which are concerned because Venezuela may eventually decide to suspend its oil shipments.

A spokesman of the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA) told EFE that the country's oil policy has not changed since war broke out in the Persian Gulf.

Local political circles stated that the government has received numerous requests from countries in the zone who wish to increase their purchases of Venezuelan crude oil, to increase their reserves given the current instability in the market.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Energy and Mines said that certain Latin American buyers are worried that Venezuela may suspend its shipments to increase the volume of oil exported to the United States.

Venezuela produces an average of 2.4 million barrels of oil a day and exports 2 million barrels, 1.2 million of which are sold to the United States, the leading market for Venezuelan crude oil.

French Guiana

41st Ariane Mission Successfully Launched 15 Jan

PA1601015291 Paris AFP in Spanish 2349 GMT 15 GMT 91

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 16 Jan [date as received] (AFP)—The 41st Ariane European rocket has successfully launched the European Italsat-1 and Eutelsat-II-F2 telecommunications satellites, according to an announcement made by the Arianespace Society, which commercializes the European rockets on the world market. The source added that the 41st Ariane mission "has therefore been a success."